

Hafa Adai!

Blanco is House minority leader. **PAGE 2**

Casino commission gains more powers in new law. **PAGE 5**

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 10

www.saipantribune.com

FRIDAY JANUARY 15, 2021

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Cui, Browne threatened with arrest

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court is warning Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC that it will have its officials arrested if they fail to appear before the court for the next hearing.

In the lawsuit filed by the U.S. Department of Labor against IPI, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona ordered IPI's chair Cui Li Jie and former chief executive officer Donald Browne to appear before the court on Jan. 21 at 8:30am,

with a warning that failure to appear may result in the issuance of a bench warrant for their arrest.

As the USDOL case moves forward, Manglona wants IPI to explain why it should not be held in contempt for violating

See CUI on Page 4

Trump is impeached again

By LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK, JONATHAN LEMIRE and ALAN FRAM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump was impeached by the U.S. House for a historic second time, charged with "incitement of insurrection" over the deadly mob siege of the U.S. Capitol in a swift and stunning collapse of his final days in office.

See TRUMP on Page 4



RELATED NEWS

■ **McConnell open to convicting Trump in impeachment trial.**
PAGE 14

COP Golf Course is now open

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Coral Ocean Point Golf Course in Obyan officially

opens to the public today and, this early, it already has over 400 reservations for the week-end up to Monday next week.

See COP on Page 4



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres speaks at the opening of the Coral Ocean Point Golf Course in San Antonio yesterday, saying it gives the CNMI economy more hope to get through the pandemic.

BEA CABRERA

Tinian vaccinations on Sunday

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Jan 14, 2021

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,444	13	7,457
Recovered	7,208	10	7,218
Active	102	13	115
Deaths	124	0	124
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			107,087

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	128	0	128
Traced via Travel Screening	102	0	102
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			26,131*
Days since last community transmission			149

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has opened online registration for the initial phase of COVID-19 vaccinations on Tinian, which will be done this Sunday at the Tinian Health Center from 10am to 3pm.

And since the Moderna Inc. vaccines are easier to trans-

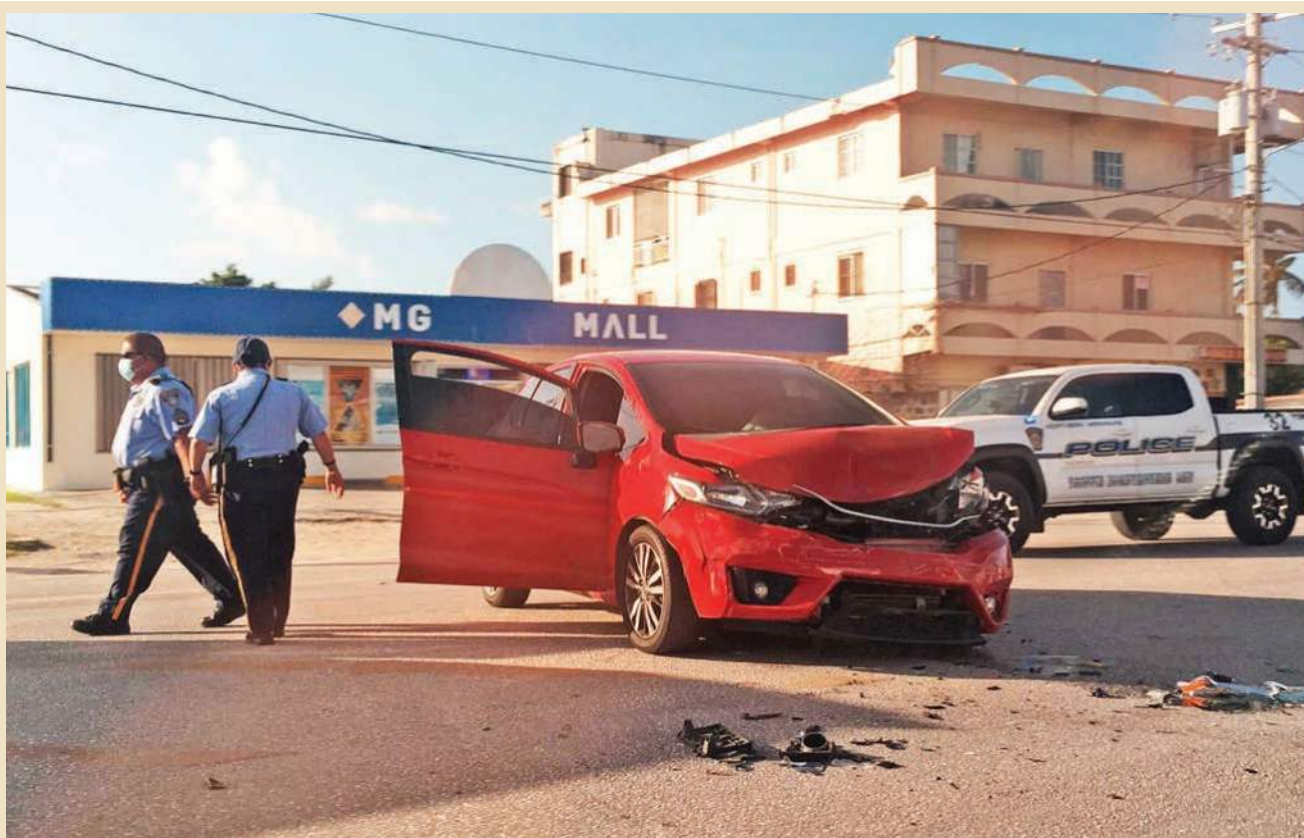
See TINIAN on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor



ROAD MISHAP

Police officers and an ambulance converged on the highway in front of Subway in Chalan Piao at the site of this car accident yesterday. Additional details were not immediately available as of press time.

KRIZEL TUAZON

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Hafadai Saipan at the Paseo de Marianas is Saipan's own baby product central.

PAGE 13



WORLD

Portugal's government ordered the country into a coronavirus lockdown.

PAGE 15



LIFE & STYLE

A Tintin drawing by Herge in Paris is estimated to sell between 2 and 3 million euros.

PAGE 19



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440

FAX: 235-3740

EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Toys & Clothes
for children
ages 0 to 10

January Clearance Sale
30%-50% off
selected clothing

LOLLIPOPS

BEACH RD., GARAPAN
Monday - Saturday: 9am - 6pm
Sunday: 10am - 4pm
TEL. 234-8040

Like us on Facebook

a boutique for Tween girls
ages 8-12

Dresses, Tees, skirts, jeans,
shorts, and Accessories!

20% off
dresses and junior clothing

Girl Talk

FISG Bldg., Micro Beach Road, next to Swirls
Monday - Thursday: 10am to 4pm
Friday - Saturday: 10am to 5pm
Closed on Sunday
TEL. 233-8050

Like us on Facebook

Drive-Thru & Take-Out ONLY

1 PC. CRISPY CHICKEN
W/ RICE & DRINK
C1 \$5.00
w/o Drink \$4.50

2 PCS. CRISPY CHICKEN
W/ RICE & DRINK
C2 \$7.00
w/o Drink \$6.50

6 PCS. CRISPY CHICKEN
C6 \$12.00

8 PCS. CRISPY CHICKEN
C8 \$16.00

CRISPY CHICKEN
SPAGHETTI
W/ DRINK
CS \$5.50

1 WHOLE
HERB ROASTED
CHICKEN ONLY
\$14.00

HALF
HERB ROASTED
CHICKEN ONLY
\$7.00

QUARTER
HERB ROASTED
CHICKEN ONLY
\$5.00

SWEET CHILI
WINGS
W/ RICE & DRINK
WS \$7.50
A la carte \$5.50

LIMON PEPPER
WINGS
W/ RICE & DRINK
WL \$7.50
A la carte \$5.50

BUFFALO WINGS
W/ RICE & DRINK
WB \$7.50
A la carte \$5.50

TERIYAKI WINGS
W/ RICE & DRINK
WT \$7.50
A la carte \$5.50

BES House of Chicken

Location: Beach Rd. Garapan Beside PC Bargain Store
Call Us | (670) 233 - 3377

New Arrival on Hot Sale

Local

Blanco is House minority leader

The minority bloc in the House of Representatives chose Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) yesterday as minority leader.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), who is the minority bloc's spokesperson, said they are confident in Blanco's skills and abilities to lead their team in the 22nd House.

"The minority bloc is looking forward to formulating our goals and objectives in our endeavor to help restore our economic footing following the immense challenges of the global pandemic," Demapan said.

Demapan, who was nominated to the speakership last

Tuesday, took himself out of the race after the voting deadlocked between him and Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan). Blanco was then nominated for speaker. Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (R-Saipan) broke the tie, 11-9, when he voted for Villagomez. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



Rep. Jonathan Blas T. Attao (R-Saipan) holds up a letter addressed to House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (R-Saipan), notifying him that the minority bloc has selected Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), fourth from right, as the minority leader yesterday. The letter was signed by the nine minority members. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Midea ELECTRIC
Kung Hei Fat Choi
SALE

5%-50%
OFF

MIDEA AIRCONDITIONING
AUX BRAND AIRCONDITIONING
FREEZER
REFRIGERATOR
WASHER
WATER DISPENSER
LED ITEMS, SMART TV 32" - 65"
FAUCETS
HARDWARE
HOME APPLIANCES, RICE COOKER,
ELECTRIC FAN..
RECHARGEABLE SPEAKERS ETC.

Aux Brand
9,000 BTU - SALE PRICE: \$479

Aux Brand
18,000 BTU - \$730

Midea Brand
24K 17 SEERS - \$1,199

Midea Brand
36K 16-18 SEERS - \$1,999

RECHARGEABLE SPEAKER W/
MICROPHONE
(MINI SIZE - PARTY SIZE)

New Arrival on Hot Sale

HAO'S AIR CONDITIONING

Phone: 234-0680 / 285-0680 Fax: 234-0688
For more info, check us at the store.
INSTALLMENT AVAILABLE

Located at CK across the U.S. Post Office

Roof coating promo on Saturday

The Department of Public Works' Division of Energy, in collaboration with Sherwin Williams, will be hosting a one-day, in-store-only promotional event for Energy Star-rated cool roof products on Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021, from 9am to 12pm.

Residents can buy one NC clear acrylic 5-gallon pail primer and get one free NC SRC 750 roller grade 5-gallon elastomeric roof coating product. Items will be limited to two 5-gallon pails while supplies last. Due to limited funding and product availability, items will be available on a first-come first-served basis only.

To avail of elastomeric products, residential consumers must present a copy of a valid government-issued identification card and a copy of a most recent utility billing with name on account. If availing for a residential consumer who is unable to do so, an authorization letter and a copy of a valid ID from the account holder must be provided. Businesses or rental property owners and or landlords are not eligible to receive elastomeric products.

DPW Energy director Thelma Inos highly encourages residents to participate in implementing energy-efficiency measures by using Energy Star-rated products within their homes.

"Beyond improving the efficiency and comfort of their homes, residents can reduce their home's cooling costs and conserve energy to ultimately preserve and protect available natural resources in the environment," said Inos.

In addition, due to the continued threat of COVID-19, residents remain advised to observe all posted and applicable health and safety-related guidance from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation to reduce the spread of the virus.

For additional questions or information regarding this event, you may contact program manager Vincent S. Attao at telephone numbers 664-4480/4.

Funding opportunity for this project is made possible through grant funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Energy - State Energy Program. (PR)



McDonald's Sweetens Up Breakfast with New Nationwide McCafé® Bakery Lineup



Cinnamon Roll
Served warm and loaded with cinnamon layered between buttery, flaky pastry dough that is drizzled with a delicious cream cheese icing. This treat pairs best with a Premium Roast Coffee.



Blueberry Muffin
A soft and fluffy muffin baked with real blueberries and topped with a streusel crumb topping that goes wonderfully with a Premium Roast Coffee.



Apple Fritters
A classic fritter made with cinnamon and apples fried to a golden brown and covered with a sweet glaze icing. Pair it perfectly with a Premium Roast Coffee.

AVAILABLE all day

Order in the App, pass the line with a tap

Three easy steps to order through the McDonald's App

Download the McDonald's App

GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store



Order on your time
Use our App to pick out your favorite McDonald's items a la carte or make a meal.



Pay
Pay using any major payment card. Your card will not be charged until you check in.



Pick up on your terms
Check in at any participating McDonald's restaurant to pick up your meal however you want—get your food brought to you Curbside, avoid the line Inside the Restaurant or grab it in the Drive Thru.




STORE HOURS: GARAPAN EXPRESS OPEN DAILY FROM 6:00AM TO 12 MIDNIGHT
CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD OPEN DAILY FROM 6:00AM TO 10:00PM
 Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577 • Office Tel: 235-8761 • Fax: 235-8760 • E-mail: admin@jcamcd.com

Shell V-Power

TOGETHER, WE ARE UNBEATABLE

Get Double  **PACIFICPOINTS**
with all V-Power Fuel Purchases.

*See store for details. For more information regarding the new loyalty program, download the PACIFICPOINTS mobile app on your phone or visit www.pacificpoints.com.

GO WELL



DOL to reopen PUA portal in next few days

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Labor is working on reopening its Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program in the next few days.

During the Society of Human Resources Management's monthly meeting last Wednesday, Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente said she is hopeful the department will be able to start receiving PUA applications again in the next couple of days.

Benavente said she has already submitted an application for a second round of unemployment assistance to the U.S Department of Labor.

There is still no set date when DOL will receive a response or when they will receive guidelines because Be-

navente said the CNMI is in competition with other territories, including Guam.

This time around, Benavente said, on top of about 18,000 individuals who were receiving PUA benefits during the first round, she anticipates the second round will provide aid to at least 8,000 CNMI-Only Transitional Workers.

During the first go around, USDOL allocated \$240 million to the CNMI for unemployment assistance. To date, DOL has received and disbursed about \$196 million to over 18,000 eligible applicants.

Although CW-1 workers can now apply for PUA, there are still a few details that CNMI DOL needs verified by USDOL. PUA only applies to those whose jobs were negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, whether they were terminated, fur-

loughed, or had their work hours cut.

Some of the things that need verification include from what date CWs can start filing for, what documents will be needed, and whether CWs with expired visas or have been terminated will qualify for benefits.

Once CNMI DOL receives the guidelines from USDOL and is granted funding, the department will immediately start the process of reopening the online portal where people can apply for PUA.

The package that President Donald Trump signed into law revives a weekly pandemic jobless benefit boost of \$300 as well as the Paycheck Protection Program of grants to businesses to keep workers on payrolls. It also extends eviction protections and adds a new rental assistance fund.

In addition, the bill also allocates funding for \$600 stimulus checks.

TRUMP

From Page 1

With the Capitol secured by armed National Guard troops inside and out, the House voted 232-197 on Wednesday to impeach Trump. The proceedings moved at lightning speed, with lawmakers voting just one week after violent pro-Trump loyalists stormed the Capitol, egged on by the president's calls for them to "fight like hell" against the election results.

Ten Republicans fled Trump, joining Democrats who said he needed to be held accountable and warned ominously of a "clear and present danger" if Congress should leave him unchecked before Democrat Joe Biden's inauguration Jan. 20.

Trump is the only U.S. president to be twice impeached. It was the most bipartisan presidential impeachment in modern times, more so than

against Bill Clinton in 1998.

The Capitol insurrection stunned and angered lawmakers, who were sent scrambling for safety as the mob descended, and it revealed the fragility of the nation's history of peaceful transfers of power. The riot also forced a reckoning among some Republicans, who have stood by Trump throughout his presidency and largely allowed him to spread false attacks against the integrity of the 2020 election.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi invoked Abraham Lincoln and the Bible, imploring lawmakers to uphold their oath to defend the Constitution from all enemies, foreign "and domestic."

She said of Trump: "He must go, he is a clear and present danger to the nation that we all love."

Holed up at the White House, watching the proceedings on TV, Trump later released a video statement in which he made no mention at

all of the impeachment but appealed to his supporters to refrain from any further violence or disruption of Biden's inauguration.

"Like all of you, I was shocked and deeply saddened by the calamity at the Capitol last week," he said, his first condemnation of the attack. He appealed for unity "to move forward" and said, "Mob violence goes against everything I believe in and everything our movement stands for. ... No true supporter of mine could ever disrespect law enforcement."

Trump was first impeached by the House in 2019 over his dealings with Ukraine, but the Senate voted in 2020 acquit. He is the first president to be impeached twice. None has been convicted by the Senate, but Republicans said Wednesday that could change in the rapidly shifting political environment as officeholders, donors, big business and others peel away from the defeated president.

CUI

From Page 1

a consent judgment in April 2020 that requires IPI to pay back wages, liquidated damages, and civil monetary penalties. Manglona also wants these IPI officials to explain why they should not be ordered to purge themselves of their contempt pursuant to federal rules of civil procedure and the Fair Labor Standards Act.

USDOL, in its petition for contempt, had accused IPI executives of unlawfully requiring stranded employees to work without pay during a global pandemic, and failing to meet the workers' basic necessities or provide for their return to their home countries.

USDOL wants the federal court to enforce the April 11, 2019, consent judgment and to issue an order finding IPI, Cui, and Browne in civil contempt for violating the consent judgment. USDOL said IPI execu-

tives should pay \$788 million to their employees, and pay USDOL \$1.38 million in back wages owed under the judgment.

USDOL said IPI should be required to place \$2 million in an escrow account prior to their employees resuming work.

Browne has since informed the federal court that he is no longer the CEO of IPI since Dec. 17, 2020, and denied any knowledge of any previous consent judgment.

Last year, IPI agreed to a consent judgment with the USDOL to settle and resolve the labor violations by construction contractors of IPI. Under that consent judgment, IPI agreed to pay USDOL \$3.36 million for back wages, liquidated damages, and civil monetary penalties.

The consent judgment, which prohibits IPI and its agents from violating labor laws, was signed by Cui, her lawyer, Eugene R. Sullivan, and Boris Orlov, senior trial attorney for the USDOL.

COP

From Page 1

The formal opening was preceded by a ribbon-cutting ceremony and invitational game yesterday that was attended by E-Land/Micronesia Resort Inc. management and employees, elected officials, business leaders, and golf enthusiasts.

E-Land/Micronesia Resort Inc. president and CEO Brian Shin kick-started yesterday's ceremony with a short story of COP's journey before opening the golf course. "The whole course was completely destroyed and non-existent after Super Typhoon Yutu. ...Hole No. 7 disappeared, a 40-foot shipping container flew and landed on the fairway, and hundreds of trees were uprooted and blown to the ocean," he said.

"After repairs, the plan was to open the resort in July [2020]...but COVID-19 hit. ...But we are now here, the COP Golf Course is open and here for the community. ...Special thanks to my team who worked day in and day out to make this course what it is today. ...We recruited our golf course manager, Lee Chang Hyun, from Korea and he is the one who built this course from scratch. ...He was on the field 18 months," he added.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who graced the occasion, recalled living just a block away from COP when he was child. "Seeing COP open and active again in the community means a lot to me. It shows us there is hope and light at the end of the tunnel. Like what we are working on in the CNMI Governor's Council of Economic Advisers, we are preparing our tourist destinations, tourist sites like this golf course before the tourists comes back. Congratulations to E-Land," he said.

Pacific Island Club Saipan general manager Gloria Cavanagh said the re-

opening of the golf course is good for the economy. "We have been rehiring and hiring people and E-Land has been working hard to open to give the people of the CNMI more opportunities. ...We have seen the demand for us to open because there were only two golf courses on island," she said. PIC is a sister company of COP.

"Golf is the sport of choice during this time because, aside from promoting health, it is played outdoors, which is extremely safe during a pandemic. It helps too that we do not have community infection and we sure hope it stays that way until we all get out through this and everybody is vaccinated," she added.

Golf enthusiasts and longtime players Shayne Villanueva, of AON Insurance, and James Benavente, of Micronesia Environmental Service LLC, have been waiting for the reopening of the COP Golf Course for years.

"I am so excited to play on the course and excited for E-Land as well for investing and re-investing in the CNMI. I grew up in the south side of Saipan and it is great have our local course open back and giving the south opportunities for growth. I have been playing here since I was a child. One of the highlights was golf at night and I truly enjoyed that," Villanueva said.

Benavente said the reopening is good news. "It's a beautiful course that is right along the beach and cliffs. ...I find that hole No. 18 is a difficult hole—it's long and but I feel good today for it is a new year, new course, new game. Congratulations to COP," he said.

According to COP Golf Course general manager Calvin Eunpyung Park, the repair and renovation of the golf course didn't veer away from the original design of legendary PGA player and golf course architect Larry Nelson. "We followed Mr. Nelson's design all the way. ...We planted

grass, replaced all the greens in all holes because that is very important in all holes, and we planted hundreds of trees again so players can take a rest under the shade. ...For fun, we added animal décor along the course...an alligator, shark, and turtle," he said.

"For the hotel, we are looking at opening either in May or June of this year. We added 200 new rooms to the already 100 we had before so COP will have a total of 300 rooms when we open. ...COP's concept is gearing toward 'wellness' and our pool area will be called the Beach Club, inspired by Beach Club concepts you will find in Bali and Phuket," he added.

Shin is confident that opening the COP Golf Course will show the world that the CNMI is getting ready for the return of tourists. "Our goal is the same with all CNMI leaders, business owners, and golf players—we want to build up the Marianas to where it was pre-COVID-19 and we trust that our tourists will come back very soon," he said.

"I believe that opening this course means a lot not just for our company, but for community and economy as well," he added.

Also present yesterday were Senate President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Sen. Justo Quitugua (R-Saipan), Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan (R-Saipan), Sen. Victor Hocog (R-Rota), House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (R-Saipan), House vice speaker Rep. B.J. Attao (R-Saipan), Rep. Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan), Rep. Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan), Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan), Rep. Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan), Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), Rep. Joel Camacho (R-Saipan), Saipan Mayor David Apatang, Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan, Aileen Torres of Department of Public Lands, and Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Christopher Tenorio.

TINIAN

From Page 1

port, those are the vaccines that will be brought to Tinian. About 400 vaccines are expected to be used on Tinian for Phase 1A, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief operation officer Subroto Banerji, about the same number that will also be used on Rota. CHCC will be going to Rota the following Sunday.

The Moderna vaccines are capable of being shipped to Rota and Tinian without being placed in ultra-cold storage.

Banerji stated that ease of transport for the Moderna vaccine is why CHCC chose to use these vaccines for the outreach on Tinian and Rota. This is also why CHCC has used some Moderna vaccines for some individuals who are homebound or bed-bound, as CHCC can bring the vaccines to these patients.

"The challenge is that the Pfizer vaccine doesn't work well once it's moved a lot, so we bring it across the street into our vaccination tent in refrigeration [and] it stays there. The Moderna vaccine is much easier to be mobile. So that's allowed us to start homebound, or bed-bound, [vaccination]," said Banerji. So far, 10 indi-

viduals on Saipan have received the Moderna vaccine.

Meantime, CHCC has opened up online registration on Saipan for today, Jan. 15, and tomorrow, Jan. 16 for Phase 1B.

Banerji stated that CHCC had to quickly change their strategy on the third week because people weren't going in. "We had already opened up the vaccine, and we didn't want to waste it, so we went ahead and opened up to the initial 1B, and then we close it back down," said Banerji.

Banerji stated that Phase 1A was focused on protecting those individuals who are in direct contact, or hospital staff working at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe who are dealing with COVID-10 patients, first responders who are present when there are positive cases, and individuals who are 65 years old or older. He said it's been documented that these individuals are more likely to get severe disease should they get infected with COVID-19.

The other group in Phase 1A are individuals living in long-term care facilities, or nursing homes. However, the CNMI does not have long-term care facilities, Banerji said, so Esther Muña, CHCC chief executive officer, decided to replace "long-term care facilities" with individuals who are homebound or bed-bound.

Casino commission gains more powers in new law

The Commonwealth Casino Commission just got more powerful with the recent enactment of a bill that clarifies and enhances its powers, including the authority to issue a

casino license.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres also signed into law a bill that will increase the fees of the Office of the Registrar of Corporations under the Depart-

ment of Commerce.

Under the new Public Law 21-38, the casino commission, not the Finance secretary, shall establish and maintain a CCC regulatory fee fund that is sepa-

rate from the government's general fund. As an autonomous agency, the commission will also determine its own staffing levels. It is also granted the authority to issue a casino license, a power that used to be with the CNMI Lottery Commission.

In an earlier interview, CCC board chair Edward C. Deleon Guerrero, said the original bill, House Bill 21-11, would strengthen the casino commission's ability to enforce the mandates of the original gaming law, Public Law 18-56, and would clarify and removes

some of the ambiguities.

Then-vice speaker Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) introduced the legislation in 2019. The Senate passed the bill with amendments in March 2020.

In raising Commerce's fees under Public Law 21-37, the new fees are \$150 for filing of the Articles of Organization; \$150, Articles of Incorporation; \$250, application for reinstatement following administrative dissolution; \$250, application for certificate of authority for foreign corporation; \$50, application for

amended certificate of authority, among other several fees.

Rep. Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan) introduced the bill in 2019, saying these fees have been stagnant since the enactment of Executive Order 97-03 in 1998. Since then, Guerrero said, there has been an influx of businesses in the CNMI.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce had asked Torres to veto the bill, saying business owners and entrepreneurs are exhausted and overwhelmed at this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. *(Ferdie Dela Torre)*

MPLT's financial statements get good marks in audit

The Marianas Public Land Trust has gotten a favorable report from an independent auditor that reviewed its financial statements for the year that ended Sept. 30, 2019.

The independent auditor, Burger, Comer, and Magliari, found that the financial statements it reviewed present the financial position of MPLT as of Sept. 30, 2019, in a fair manner.

BCM, which was hired by the Office of the Public Auditor to do the audit, found that the changes in MPLT's net position and its cash flows for the year are "fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole" and were in accordance with accounting principles accepted in the United States.

BCM said they did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that they consider to be material weaknesses. That is not to say that material weaknesses are not there. BCM said that material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

To check whether MPLT's financial statements are free from material misstatement, BCM said it performed tests on compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. "The results of our tests disclosed no instances of

noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards," BCM said.

MPLT disclosed that its assets increased in 2019 by \$2,398,647 million over the amount in 2018, due primarily due to the increase in the fair market value of its investments.

MPLT's total liabilities in 2019 decreased by only \$69 due primarily to net changes to amounts due to brokers, accounts payable, and accrued expenses.

MPLT said such changes resulted in an increase of \$2,398,716 in its total fund balance for 2019.

MPLT's total operating revenues for 2019 and 2018 were \$5,990,526 and \$12,330,886, respectively.

MPLT's investment income (excluding net increase in fair value of investment and contributions from Department of Public Lands) for 2019 and 2018 was \$3,364,007 and \$2,844,386, respectively.

Distributions to the CNMI general fund for 2019 and 2018 were \$2,265,081 and \$1,840,206, respectively.

The cumulative amount distributed to the CNMI general fund since inception in 1983 has been \$63,555,853.

MPLT said that, as a result of the spread of the coronavi-

HONOR ROLL

Saipan Community School
2nd Quarter Honor Roll for
2020/2021

PRINCIPAL'S LIST*

4.00 (No grade below a "A")
Ji-Hyo Kim-6th grade
Joan Song-6th grade
Jeong Bin Park-6th grade
Lola Guerrero-7th grade

"A" HONOR ROLL

3.50 to 3.99 — (No grades
below a "B")
David Park-6th grade
Byul An-6th grade

Hannah Chae-6th grade
Joshua Yoo-6th grade
David Ye-6th grade
Alfred Baek-7th
Abbie Kim-7th grade
Sheryne Yang-7th grade
Tae Seong Kim-7th grade
Andy Kim-7th grade
Mikaela Rabago-8th grade
Soledad Sablan-8th grade
Sophia Brasuell-8th grade

"B" HONOR ROLL

3.00 to 3.49 — (No grades
below a "C")

Jian Chun-6th grade
Gabriela Bark-6th grade
Kassidy Camacho-6th grade
Jie Huang-7th grade
Joanne Yoon -7th grade
Leighton Palacios-7th grade
Elijah Ye-7th grade
Drei Camacho-7th grade
Hilah Bacani-7th grade
Timothy Hanes-7th grade
Matthew Hanes-8th grade
Jason Kim-8th grade
Jacky Zhen-8th grade
Dwight Crisostomo-
8th grade
Ji-Hyo Chun-8th grade

Detecting a leak: There are THREE ways to detect a gas leak (smell is the most common):



SMELL — To help you SMELL a gas leak, a familiar odor like rotten eggs is added to both natural gas and propane.
SEE — Near a leaking gas pipeline, you might SEE blowing dirt, bubbling water or an unusual area of dead vegetation.
HEAR — A leaking pipeline, appliance, storage tank or cylinder (propane only) might make a hissing sound you can HEAR.

If you ever suspect a gas leak, leave the area immediately. (Do not touch or use anything electric on your way out—not even a light switch or telephone.)
Then, call your local gas provider or 9-1-1.



For your LPGas needs, please call 322-7415 or 322-8733
Open from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday | 8:00am – 2:00pm Saturday

Pre-order now and receive free gifts worth up to \$400!



Galaxy Buds Live

or



Galaxy Buds Pro

+



Galaxy Tab A 8.0

+

Galaxy SmartTag
+
25W Wall Charger

When you reserve at ite.net
from January 15 - 24.

ite.net [itecnmi](https://www.instagram.com/itecnmi) [itecnmi](https://www.facebook.com/itecnmi)

*Terms and conditions apply. Pre-order available online only from January 15-24, 2021. Non-refundable \$50 reservation fee required. Reservation fee will be applied to the handset purchase upon activation. Pre-order of Samsung Galaxy S21+ includes FREE Samsung Galaxy Tab A 8.0, Galaxy Buds Live, Galaxy SmartTag and 25W wall charger. Pre-order of Samsung Galaxy S21 Ultra includes FREE Samsung Galaxy Tab A 8.0, Galaxy Buds Pro, Galaxy SmartTag and 25W wall charger. A 12- or 24- month Postpaid contract is required to receive the free items. Outright or Prepaid purchases are not eligible to get the free items. The free items may not be substituted or exchanged for cash. Offer good while supplies last. Visit ite.net or see stores for details.



GUANGDONG HARDWARE

Never satisfied until you are

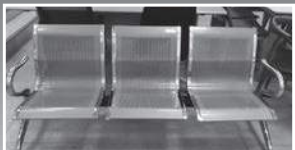
NEW ARRIVAL

LAVATORY FAUCET,
MIRROR, GARDEN TOOLS,
G.I. PIPES, SQUARE
TUBES,
SHORING JACK PIPE,
ROOFING TIN
& MANY MORE
ABS, CPVC, PVC,
CONDUIT PIPES
& FITTINGS ARE
ALL MADE IN USA
ELECTRICAL TOOLS,
WATER HEATER &
WINDOWS

NEW ARRIVAL Furniture



*Make a Difference
for Your House!*



NEW ARRIVALS! VALSPAR PAINT

It's the suitable paint for the island climate. Makes your paint last for a long time!



LED LIGHTS

- Less money, 50% energy saving!
- More stable, bright, and fashionable!
- More longer and environmental protection!

Your Smart Choice!

G60 Rebar is Available Now!

**CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR
CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!**

P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488

E-mail: guangdong_hardware@163.com

BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Propst: Overwhelming support prompted my return

"It's good to be back!"

Thus stated Rep. Edwin Kenneth Propst (D-Saipan) during an interview shortly after he and 19 other representatives took their oaths as members of the 22nd House of Representatives during Monday's inauguration.

Propst said the people's overwhelming support, belief, and desire for him to continue to deliver made him to decide to return to the Legislature.

"So, after consulting with my wife, my children, my parents, my family, and most especially our supporters, they have asked me to serve, and I

said, I will do so," he said.

Propst resigned last Oct. 1 as a representative, about two weeks after the Department of Public Safety confirmed that a complaint for sexual misconduct had been filed against him and that an investigation was ongoing.

A concerned citizen, Irene Holl, asked then-House speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) for a formal ethics investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct against Propst while he was a teacher at the Marianas High School and also at the Northern Mari-

anas College. The Office of the Attorney General has since dropped the case, declining to prosecute Propst.

Yet even without campaigning, Propst managed to be the top vote-getter among 14 candidates for the House Precinct 1 last Nov. 3.

When asked about this, Propst said it's a very emotional and overwhelming feeling that there are such wonderful people out there who continue to believe in the work that he does, and those who want that work to continue.

House Speaker Edmund Sa-

blan Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) appointed Propst Tuesday to chair the House Committee on Gaming. In a recent Facebook post, Propst solicited testimonies from people who may have knowledge of bribery or kickback schemes involving any gaming official, with a promise of confidentiality. Propst has been a vocal critic of exclusive Saipan casino license Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

Meanwhile, Villagomez appointed Rep. Donald Manalang Manglona (Ind-Rota) as chairman of the Committee on Ways

and Means; Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) as chairman of the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations; Rep. Leila Haveia Fleming Clark Staffler (D-Saipan) as chair of the Committee on Education; and Rep. Sheila Therese Jack Babauta (D-Saipan) as chair of the Committee on Natural Resources.

Villagomez also appointed Rep. Denita Kaipat Yangetmai (D-Saipan) as chair of the Committee on Commerce and Tourism, and Cannabis; Rep. Vicente Castro Camacho (D-Saipan) as chairman of the Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs; Rep. Richard Tudela Lizama (D-Saipan) as chairman of the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications; and Christina-Marie Elise Sablan as chair of the Committee on Health and Welfare. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

All election candidates filed their campaign statements

All 68 candidates and two political parties in last Nov. 3's general elections were able to file their campaign statements of account on time, according to acting Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Kayla Igitol yesterday.

Igitol said that most of the candidates filed on or before the Dec. 23, 2020 deadline, while 21 asked for an extension and made it to the Jan. 7, 2021, deadline.

Some candidates filed their campaign statements with the Office of the Public Auditor on Capital Hill, while many others did so with CEC office in Susupe.

According to OPA and CEC, the campaign statement of account must be filed within 50 days after an election. Last year, the deadline fell on Dec. 23, 2020.

A statement can be delivered by certified mail as long as it is postmarked no later than Dec. 23, 2020.

Upon a written request from the candidate, the CEC may extend the deadline for filing by up to 15 days, or Jan. 7, 2021.

However, OPA and CEC said, the candidate must possess an approved request for extension by Dec. 23, 2020, to avoid being penalized.

A candidate will be fined \$100 for each calendar day the report is late.

There were 68 candidates who ran in the last election for a total of 39 positions, including the delegate to the U.S. Congress, plus retention elections for a justice and two judges. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLAND WEBEX MEETING JANUARY 19, 2021

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Honolulu Regional Office - Public Contact Team

Will host a Virtual Benefits Workshop for Veterans, Family Members, Surviving Spouses, and Community Providers

on

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021

From

5:00PM-7:00PM (CNMI LOCAL TIME)

To participate please join us in Cisco Webex by clicking or copying and pasting the following link:

****DOWNLOAD SLIDES AT: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/honolulu/>****

<https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=me95a0a0b8f74a712b4bec1b0b740b676>

You can join via Computer, Phone Audio (1-404-397-1596, 1991699053##), or Webex Mobile App

Benefits Workshop Topics:
Compensation, Pension, Education & Training, DIC, Survivor Benefits, Loan Guaranty, Veteran Readiness & Employment, Burial and Plot Internment Allowance, Burial Flags, & Insurance



SEA TURTLES

Sea turtles are important for our islands and environment! They maintain the health of sea grass beds and coral reefs. Sea turtles balance marine food webs by controlling prey populations. Lastly, turtles boost tourism and the economy through marine recreational activities.

Unfortunately, due to decades of intense hunting, sea turtle populations are only a fraction of their historic abundance. Only 12 female turtles return to CNMI to nest every year and this number keeps declining!

Sea turtles are protected by local and federal laws. It is our responsibility to protect and give populations time to recover. Sea turtles provided for us in the past and now depend on us for their survival.

**SAVE
TURTLES!** **REPORT VIOLATIONS
& TURTLE EMERGENCIES:
670-287-8537**

Calls are completely anonymous, our hotline is open 24 hours a day.



Chamber names 4 nominees for Biz Person of the Year

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce announced Wednesday four nominees for its 2020 Business Person of the Year Award: Joseph C. Guerrero (Naked Fish Bar & Grill), Josephine DLG Mesta (Hyatt Regency Saipan), Esther Muna (Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.), and Dr. Joshua Wise of PHI Pharmacy. All four nominees are active members of the Chamber.

The winner of this award will be selected by the prior recipients of this award and announced at the annual Business Person of the Year Gala slated for Saturday, Jan. 30, 2021, at the Royal Taga Ballroom, Saipan World Resort, from 6pm to 10pm.

Seats to the event are limited due to COVID-19 and available for advance purchase only for \$100 per person. Tickets include a formal sit-down dinner, networking, and a night celebrating the movers and shakers of our

community. To order tickets, RSVP online at <https://www.saipanchamber.com/bpoyannualgala/>, email coordinator@saipanchamber.com, call (670) 234-7150, or visit the fourth floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 413.

JOSEPH C. GUERRERO

Guerrero is the co-owner of Naked Fish Bar & Grill as well as Hafa Adai Realty. He has over 19 years of senior business management and development experience in real estate finance and investments, commercial lending, and sales; consulting; restaurant and bar; telecommunications sales; health care; and auto dealership.



Guerrero

Guerrero is a former chair

of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission (2012-2015). Currently, he is vice president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce (2019-present), board member of the NMI Crime Stoppers (2017-present), as well as a member of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors as appointed by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Guerrero has been a member of the Chamber for nearly 20 years and holds a BA in Business Administration (Real Estate) from Washington State University and an MBA from the University of Oregon.

JOSEPHINE DLG MESTA

Mesta is director of Human Resources of Hyatt Regency Saipan. She has 20-plus years of experience in international and multicultural management-level human resource management, senior-level hospitality management and training; and administrative and leadership positions. She is also the owner of Train Smart, which provides training



Mesta

for small businesses, government agencies, job coaching of workers with disabilities.

Mesta received her bachelor's degree in Business at Hawaii Pacific College and her masters of Education specializing in Special Education at the University of Hawaii. She is a certified training specialist at the University of Hawaii, certified as a professional in human resources through the Society of Human Resources, and a certified guest service professional through the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute.

Mesta is a founding member of the SHRM-Northern Marianas Chapter, where she became president, chair of the State Workforce Investment board, secretary of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance, vice-chair of the State Rehabilitation Council, chair of the Santa Soledad Finance Council, and member of the Kagman Christian Mothers. She is also a former member of CNMI Task Workforce and former board member of the Northern Marianas Trades Institute. Because of her dedication to our workforce needs, the CNMI moves closer to a locally-sustained, equitable workforce.

ESTHER MUNA

Muña was appointed CHCC chief executive officer in April 2014



Muña

and as the state/territorial health official for the CNMI. She currently oversees the strategic direction and all operations of the CNMI health system, which includes the Commonwealth Health Center Hospital, Rota Health Center, Tinian Health Center, Population Health Services, Behavioral Health Services, and Environmental Health Services.

Muna is board-certified in healthcare management as a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Muña's leadership roles include currently serving as a member of the End-Stage Renal Disease Network 17 board of directors, as president of the Pacific Island Health Officers Association, as a board member of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, and as the chair of the Insular Affairs Committee of ASTHO.

Muña received a Master of Health Administration degree

from Saint Joseph's College of Maine.

DR. JOSHUA WISE

Wise has been the general manager for Pacific Health Inc. (PHI Pharmacy) since 2015. Since serving as GM, PHI has opened multiple new locations in Kagman (March 2020), Garapan (September 2020), and Tinian (December 2020). The Tinian branch will be the first pharmacy in the CNMI operated by advanced Tele-Pharmacy software.



Wise

Wise collaborated with the Kagman Community Health Center to establish a 340B program, which enables KCHC patients who qualify under their sliding fee program to be able to be a recipient for a Care Card.

Wise graduated with a Doctor of Pharmacy and Bachelor of Arts in Pharmacy Studies degree in 2014. He is a 2018 graduate of the Pacific Century Fellows-NMI Chapter, an active member of the CHCC Care Transition team, and an involved stakeholder for the Overdose to Action Program. (PR)

Saipan son lands on Oregon U honor roll

Robert Lawrence B. DeLeon Guerrero of Saipan, a senior student taking up Agricultural Sciences at the Oregon State University, has been named to the university's scholastic honor roll for the

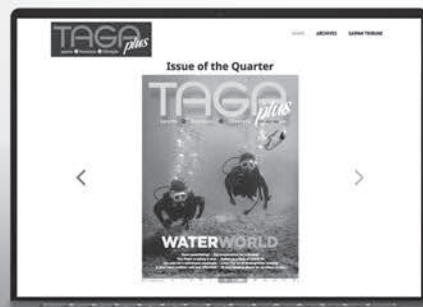
fall term of 2020.

A total of 8,378 earned a B-plus (3.5) or better to make the listing. To be on the honor roll, students must carry at least 12 graded hours of course work. (PR)

ADVERTISE *with us & save!*

Expand your ad message across several channels and extend your audience reach.

TAGA *plus*



Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

670.235-8747



www.saipantribune.com



facebook.com/saipantribune



saipantribuneofficial

Tan Marikita's Cafe joins NMC ProaPerks program

Tan Marikita's Cafe of Herman's Modern Bakery is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations that provide exclusive discounts and benefits for Northern Marianas College students, employees, and alumni.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now get a 10% discount on cafe menu items of Tan Marikita's Cafe.

Tan Marikita's Cafe of Herman's Modern Bakery joins the growing list of ProaPerks partners, across the CNMI

that range from restaurants to apparel stores and even car dealers.

NMC is in the introductory phase of rolling out the ProaPerks to alumni, students, and employees. For more information, visit marianas.edu/proaperks.

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include Northern Marianas College alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. (NMC)



Tan Marikita's Cafe of Herman's Modern Bakery is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner. All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now get a 10% discount on cafe menu items.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857/58 • Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Website: www.cnmicasinocommission.com
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com



AGENDA

January 20, 2021

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission's 2nd Floor Main Conference Room at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan. However, pursuant to Governor Torres' Executive Orders and Directives on the ongoing threat from the COVID-19 pandemic and the limited space available, access to the Commission's meeting will also be available via video conference.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

I. PRELIMINARIES:

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes. December 22, 2020

II. REPORTS:

- Report by the Chairman
- Report by the Executive Director

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:

- Casino Licensee — Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC ("IPI") — Updates:
 - Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel ("IPR"). Update on the construction project
 - IPI Personnel:
 - Organizational Chart Update
 - Resident Employment Objectives
 - Status of Employee Payroll
 - Status of Employee Housing
 - IPI Financial Matters.
 - Annual Casino License Fee
 - Annual Casino Regulatory Fee
- Other Miscellaneous Matters

V. OLD BUSINESS:

- Passage of H.B. 21-11, HS1, SD1 & SD3 — Public Law No. 21-38
- Other Old Business Matters

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

- Authorization to establish a CCC Checking Account at the Bank of Guam. P.L. 21-38 established the CCC as an autonomous public agency and allows the Commission to establish and maintain its own bank accounts.
- Authorization to allow the CCC Chairman and the Executive Director to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Secretary of Finance to have the Department of Finance continue to provide payroll and procurement processing pending promulgation of CCC's own procurement regulations and the establishment of its bank accounts.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Consult with Legal Counsel
- Report by the CCC Divisions (Enforcement, Compliance, and Audit)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission reserves the right to amend this Agenda and take action on the amended Agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (b). Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912 (a)(7) and 1 CMC §9912 (c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more, if necessary. For those interested in joining or attending the meeting via the video conference, please contact the Commission at info@cnmicasinocommission.com for instructions on how to log-in to the conference site.

/s/ Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero
Chairman



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

ARFF TRAINING FACILITY TYPHOON DAMAGES GENERAL REPAIRS/REPLACEMENT Project No. CPA-SA-001-19

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting proposals for general repairs and/or replacement of typhoon damages sustained by Super Typhoon Yutu at the ARFF Training Facility (ARFFTF) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport as per this Scope of Work (SOW) and associated Contract Documents, meeting all current federal, state and local government agencies' rules and regulations.

The Scope of Work (SOW) outlining the project's general requirements may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and costs must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, may be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on Friday, January 15, 2021 at 10:00 am at the ARFF Training Facility at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport to discuss the project scope of work in detail. Attendance to the pre-proposal conference is mandatory. A site inspection will immediately follow the pre-proposal conference. Additional site visits after the pre-proposal conference may be coordinated with CPA's Project Manager, Mr. Andrew Ellison, at telephone number 671-689-1262 or 670-288-0907 or Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at 670-237-6519, but only until January 22, 2021.

Questions shall be submitted in writing to Ms. Prater, via hand delivery to CPA, or via email to wprater@cnmiports.com by no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, January 22, 2021. Responses to questions or requests for information will be provided to all proposers who attend the mandatory pre-proposal conference.

Proposers shall submit one (1) original and four (4) copies of the proposals, sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Proposal for General Construction Repairs/Replacement for SIA ARFF Training Facility, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, CPA-SA-001-19"**. Proposals must be submitted by no later than **5:00 P.M. CHST, FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: December 17, 2020



COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857/58 • Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Website: www.cnmicasinocommission.com
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Commonwealth Casino Commission ("CCC") will be holding its Administrative Hearings — Status Conferences — to review five Enforcement Actions filed against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC. to include the following:

A. January 21, 2021 - Status conference starts 10:00am

- Complaint No. 20-001: Failure to Contribute \$20 Million Dollars in Community Benefit Fund. Filed on May 28, 2020.
- Complaint No. 20-002: Failure to Pay Annual License Fee. Filed on August 26, 2020.

B. January 21, 2021 Status conference starts at 2:00pm

- Complaint No. 20-003: Violation of Commission Order No. 2020-003. Filed on September 1, 2020.
- Complaint No. 20-004: Violation of Commission Order No. 2020-004. Filed on September 24, 2020.
- Complaint No. 20-005: Failure to Pay Annual Regulatory Fee. Filed on October 6, 2020.

The status conferences will be held at the Conference Room of the CCC's main office in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

However, pursuant to Governor Ralph Torres' Executive Orders and Directives on the ongoing threat from the Covid-19 pandemic and the limited space available, access to the Commission's meeting will also be available via video conference.

For those interested in joining or attending the meeting via the video conference, please contact the Commission at info@cnmicasinocommission.com for instructions on how to log-in to the conference site.



DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 | Gualo Rai Center, Saipan

TEL. NO. 664-8300 | FAX NO. 664-8315

www.dcrm.gov.mp



NOTICE OF APPLICATION As of January 15, 2021

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Triple J Saipan Inc	12/17/2020 SSCH-2021-008	Triple J Corporate Building	Beach Road, Saipan	Shoreline, Coastal Hazard	Approved* 01/06/2021
2. U.S.A. Fanter Corporation, LTD. dba G.C. Construction Contractor	12/28/2020 SPlm-2021-009	Temporary Staging/Stockpiling	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 12/30/2020
3. Tinian Shipping Services, LLC	01/06/2021 SPlm-2021-010	Drydock	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
4. CNMI Public School System Athletic Department	01/08/2021 SSLRm-2021-011	PSS Outrigger Competition Event SY 20-21	Susupe, Saipan	Shoreline, Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Search for missing mariners suspended

HONOLULU—The search for 10 missing crewmembers who are assumed to be on a life raft off Midway Island has been suspended, exactly two weeks since the start of the search last Dec. 31, 2020.

In a statement yesterday, the U.S. Coast Guard said it suspended last Wednesday the search for the 10 crewmembers of the Taiwan fishing vessel *Yong-Yu-Sing No. 18*, who went missing approximately 550 miles northeast of Midway Island.

“As a lifesaving service making the decision to suspend a search is never easy. We extend our deepest condolences to the families of the mariners,” said Captain Craig O’Brien, the Coast Guard 14th District chief of response. “Coast Guard and Navy aircrews along with our maritime surface partners put forth great effort searching in extremely challenging weather, but unfortunately there has been no sign of the missing mariners and the Coast Guard has suspended the active search tonight at sunset pending further developments.”

Rescue crews from the Coast Guard, Navy, and good Samaritans aboard four fishing vessels and five Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue System vessels conducted a total of 34 searches, over the course of 80

hours, covering over 44,000 square miles.

The partners had been searching for the *Yong-Yu-Sing No. 18*’ crew since Dec. 31, 2020, after Rescue Coordination Center Taipei lost contact with the vessel. An Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 aircrew located the adrift *Yong-Yu-Sing No. 18* last Jan. 1, with a missing life raft and no sign of the 10 crewmembers.

Both Air Station Barbers Point and Navy aircrews performed daily air sorties of the area while the merchant and fishing vessel crews conducted surface searches.

The reported weather on scene throughout the search has been winds regularly greater than 20 mph and seas of 11 to 25 feet and is forecasted to rapidly deteriorate.

Despite the high winds and seas, crewmembers aboard the Taiwan fishing vessel *Lian-Horng No. 67* and the AMVER vessel M/V *Horizon Spirit* were able to circle within 200 feet of the vessel. The rescue crews reported

no signs of the missing mariners and placed an automatic tracking system beacon which allowed watchstanders to continuously track the vessel during the search.

Involved in the search were: Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point C-130 Hercules aircrews; a Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak C-130J Hercules aircrew; four Taiwan fishing vessels; Navy P-8 Poseidon aircrews; the crew of the AMVER vessel M/V *Oocl Tokyo*; the crew of the AMVER vessel M/V *Nicon Future*; the crew of the AMVER vessel M/V *Horizon Spirit*; the crew of the AMVER vessel M/V *Zim New York*; the crew of the AMVER vessel M/V *Maunalei*.

AMVER is a world-wide voluntary reporting system sponsored by the United States Coast Guard. It is a computer-based global ship reporting system used world-wide by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to persons in distress at sea. Today, over 22,000 ships from hundreds of nations participate in AMVER. (USCG)

CHamoru commission meeting set

The *Kumisión i Fino’ CHamoru yan i Fina’ná’guen i Historia yan i Lina’la’ i Taotao Tãno’* (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold its second January monthly virtual meeting on Jan. 21, 2021, Thursday, from 12:30pm to 3:30pm on a Zoom link. Call Kumisión secretary Roland Blas for Zoom link information, special accommodations, and agenda at 480-4047 (rolandblas1973@gmail.com). (PR)



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Division

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net | Website: <http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com>
Tels: (670) 233-9447 / 233-9448 / 233-9449 / 233-9450 | Fax: (670) 233-9452

Notice of Program Availability Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) – Housing Programs

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) wishes to announce the availability of the CDBG-DR Housing Programs. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has allocated the CNMI a total of \$243,946,000 to aid in the recovery of Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu. \$113,362,000 of the total amount is allocated to Housing Programs.

Eligibility Criteria

- Must be a U.S. Citizen, U.S. Permanent Resident, a U.S. National, or a qualified alien;
- Must be a resident of the CNMI for at least three (3) years;
- Gross annual household income, according to size of household, must not exceed 120% of median income.
- Must provide proof of ownership such as fee simple title or leasehold interest of the property and not located in a floodplain.

Information on the CDBG-DR Housing Programs

- Elderly and/or disabled applicants who were displaced by the storms are prioritized. However, eligible applicants that are mortgage ready will be prioritized on a first come, first serve basis over the elderly and/or disabled applicants who are not mortgage ready.
- Type of Financial Assistance:
 - o Deferred Loans
 - o Non-Interest (zero-interest) Bearing Loans
- **Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program** loan amount: \$10,000 up to the maximum HOME per-unit subsidy limits that apply to the CNMI as determined by HUD.
- **Homebuyer Program** loan amount: \$1,000 to \$250,000.

Application Steps

- Pre-qualification applications and checklist are available for pick up at the CDBG-DR Office and the NMHC Offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota or print an application made available on the NMHC and CDBG-DR websites at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.
- NMHC is currently accepting completed pre-qualification applications and conducting pre-qualification interviews at the NMHC Main Office in Garapan, Saipan, NMHC Tinian Field Office (NMC Campus), and the NMHC Rota Field Office, Monday to Friday from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM except Holidays. **From January 19-29, 2021, NMHC will relocate the application submission and interview site to the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Saipan.**
- Once the pre-application is completed and submitted, the case workers will assess the pre-qualification application and determine whether the applicant is eligible for the programs(s). If the applicant is eligible, the case worker will schedule an appointment with the applicant. If an applicant is deemed ineligible, a notification will be sent to the applicant.
- The case worker will inform the eligible applicant of the next steps once the application process has been completed.

Should you have any questions or need special accommodations, please contact the CDBG-DR office at 233-9447.



Tinian Field Office
Tel: (670)433-9213
Fax: (670)433-3690

“NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency”

CDBG-DR Office
Tel: (670)233-9447/9448/9449

Rota Field Office
Tel: (670)532-9410
Fax: (670)532-9441



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES (RAES)

CUC-RAES-21-008

CONSULTANT FOR INTEGRATED RESOURCE AND OTHER UTILITY PLANNING & OTHER SERVICES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for a Consultant (Project Engineer) from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for Professional Services for the development of studies and the ultimate expansion of Power Plant #1 and Design, Build and Construction of a New Power Plant in Lower Base on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Proposers for this RAES must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Scope of Work (SOW) of the RAES may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one RAES package set.

One (1) Non-Priced Proposal & One (1) Priced Proposal marked “CUC-RAES-21-008, CONSULTANT FOR INTEGRATED RESOURCE AND OTHER UTILITY PLANNING & OTHER SERVICES” must be submitted via email to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior, Purchasing Technician via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 11, 2021**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant’s preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAES does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAES and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

The selection of an A&E firm for the award of a contract will be by a committee appointed by the CUC Executive Director for this purpose, which will evaluate responses to this solicitation. Selection shall be made in accordance with CUC Procurement Regulations §50-50-305 regarding Architectural and Engineering Services. Discussions shall be conducted with at least 3 of the responding firms (or less if fewer than five firms respond) regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made therefrom. Based on the scoring criteria outlined herein, only the three most highly qualified firms shall be invited to discuss further the firm’s qualifications and project approach outlined in the scope of work.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project will be entertained only for pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 22, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Technician, Senior—via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21-011

Opening Date: January 11, 2020

Closing Date: January 25, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	Laboratory Technician
DEPARTMENT:	Water & Wastewater Laboratory
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$20,826.00 to \$28,115.00 per annum, Non- Exempt
CONTRACT:	Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Laboratory Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Performs laboratory testing and analysis of water and wastewater samples in accordance with Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards.
- Collects field samples including well, safe drinking water, and wastewater samples; determines and gathers appropriate sample containers; determines route schedules; ensures validity of samples collected including sample holding time and temperature ranges.
- Reviews, determines, records and/or reports sample analyses results; maintains laboratory files, records and related documentation.
- Maintains and cleans laboratory equipment and supplies; washes glassware, bottles and other testing supplies; ensures testing area and equipment are prepared, in working order, and ready for use.
- Monitors supplies and makes requests for replenishment of stock as needed; may research and gather and report quotation and information related to supply needs.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School diploma, GED or (AS) through the Adult Basic Education. Associate’s Degree in physical science, chemistry, biology, or other related science is preferred.

Knowledge of: Mathematical concepts; Recordkeeping principles; Customer service principles; Safe work practices; Using computers, including sending business email and use of Excel and Word.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying written laboratory procedures, applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Making work assignments and monitoring work completion (based on assignment); Performing laboratory sampling and testing of water and wastewater; Analyzing and reporting testing results; Collecting field samples and validating samples for testing; Maintaining laboratory records and files; Cleaning and maintaining laboratory equipment and supplies; Monitoring supplies and initiating requests to replenish stock; Researching and gathering information regarding supply purchase needs; Providing attention to detail; Adhering to safe work procedures; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Some positions may require the following specialized licenses and certifications: Water/Wastewater Laboratory staff.

• Licensing:

- o Valid CNMI Driver’s License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 10

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Social media and 'free speech': Is it time for government regulations?

By **GEOFFREY R. STONE**
Chicago Tribune

Geoffrey R. Stone is the Edward H. Levi Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Chicago.



A few days ago, shortly after the unprecedented invasion of the United States Capitol by a horde of unrestrained Trump supporters, Twitter announced that it was banning President Donald Trump from Twitter. After more than 36,000 tweets in four years, with 88 million followers, Trump was tossed, perhaps permanently, from his favorite social media megaphone.

Twitter explained that this was warranted because of Trump's irresponsible use of Twitter to lie about the outcome of the 2020 presidential election and to incite the deadly riot that disrupted the critical deliberations of Congress, which was in the process of counting the electoral votes that would confirm Trump's personally mortifying defeat. At approximately the same time and for the same reasons, Trump was also banned at least temporarily from Facebook.

Trump's supporters immediately raged that these actions by Twitter and Facebook violated the First Amendment. Is this assertion correct? The answer is simple: No.

Like all of the guarantees of the Bill of Rights, the First Amendment's fundamental guarantee of "freedom of speech, and of the press" limits only the actions of the government (federal, state and local), not the actions of private individuals, organizations or businesses. Just as a private enterprise cannot violate your constitutional right not to be subjected to "unreasonable searches and seizures," just as a private enterprise cannot violate your constitutional right to the "free exercise of religion," and just as a private enterprise cannot violate your constitutional right to terminate an unwanted pregnancy, so too is it legally impossible for Twitter or Facebook to violate your—or Trump's—constitutional right to "freedom of speech, or of the press."

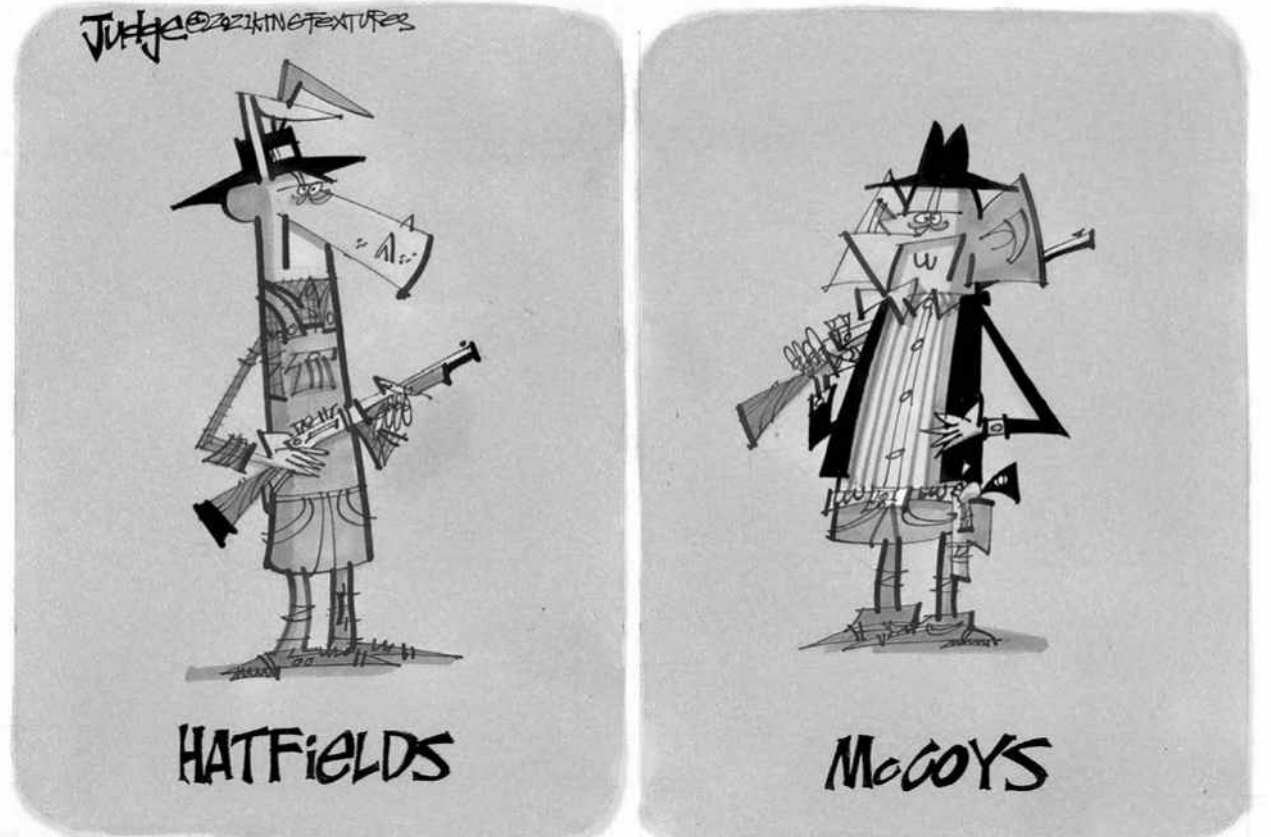
A forgotten case

Having said this, I should note that in at least one case, decided some 75 years ago, the Supreme Court held in *Marsh v. Alabama* that a privately-owned company town could not constitutionally prohibit Jehovah's Witnesses from distributing literature on the town's sidewalks. In a once-in-history decision, the Court explained that "the more an owner, for his advantage, opens up property for use by the public in general, the more do his rights become circumscribed by the ... constitutional rights of those who use it."

Twitter said on Jan. 8, 2021, that it had permanently sus-

See **SOCIAL** on Next Page

THE UNITED STATES HAS DEVELOPED A TWO-PARTY SYSTEM...



After the siege, we need civics education

By **ARNE DUNCAN** and **APRIL RYAN**
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

If the last five years in American politics have taught us one thing, it is that we can all use a refresher course in civics. The events of Jan. 6 were only the latest and most extreme illustration of America's confusion over the meaning of words like freedom, truth and democracy.

One of us is a long-time White House correspondent. One of us is a former United States education secretary. Amidst feelings of fear and hope, we're speaking with one voice today to call on our fellow Americans to relearn the lessons of American history so as to prevent the kind of madness we have experienced since Donald Trump descended that escalator more than five years ago.

Our children and young people are watching, and they rightfully wonder if this experiment we call democracy actually works.

They saw what happened in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017 and they heard what the president said. They have seen armed terrorists invade newsrooms, classrooms, synagogues, mosques and churches and murder journalists, educators, children and worshippers of every faith.

They have seen politicians evade responsibility for lax gun laws. Instead of open, honest debate in our politics, they see the opposite—lies, blaming, fear-mongering and racist dog whistles. And they saw what happened on Jan. 6 and read the president's tweets telling the people storming the U.S. Capitol that the election was "stolen" and "We love you. You're very special."

Civics education would help all of us understand that, for all our noble aspirations, America remains a nation of contradictions, inconsistencies and hard truths. It would remind us that while America's first immigrants came here seeking religious freedom, other people came here in chains.

It would remind us that our historic commitment to equality expressed in our founding documents was directly contradicted by slavery. Many of the Founding Fathers we revere were also slave owners.

It would show us that the same pioneers who tamed the American wilderness and created the breadbasket of the world also slaughtered millions of Native Americans with the approval and the assistance of our government.

A national commitment to civics would teach us that the Founding Fathers enshrined our freedoms in law in order to bolster a democracy, not to tear it down. They need to understand how fascist and totalitarian states control information to mislead

people so that, when they hear the president describe the media as "enemies of the people," they know he is doing it to avoid answering the kind of tough questions that journalists are paid to ask. That's why free speech and freedom of the press are guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

People need to understand that the founders created three independent branches of government in order to "check and balance" each other. They need to know how those checks and balances failed to hold Trump accountable when he tried to convince a foreign country to launch an investigation into his political opponent.

We were shocked that 63 million Americans voted for Donald Trump in 2016—enough to give him an Electoral College victory—despite his ignorant, inflammatory words. It's even more alarming that 74 million voted to reelect him in 2020, knowing so much more about his deceitful and destructive character and his gross incompetence during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thankfully, a record 81 million voters put Joe Biden and Kamala Harris over the top and a new administration starts on Jan. 20.

But the sickness that brought us Donald Trump has not gone away. Just as Sputnik prompted America to get serious about science education during the 1950s, the continuing support for an anti-democratic president should prompt us to get more serious about teaching civics.

According to a 2018 report from the Center for American Progress, only nine states and the District of Columbia require a year of civics in order to graduate from high school. And while about half of the states offer credit for community service, only Maryland and D.C. require it.

The worst thing that can happen is that Americans draw the wrong lessons from the Trump presidency and perpetuate the use of lies, hate and division towards political ends. Even as we write, Trump supporters are plotting their next expression of rage, hate and frustration and craven elected officials from the president's party continue to court his voters.

The best thing that can happen is that we all gain a greater appreciation of our own role in preserving and strengthening democracy. Ultimately, the rule of law prevailed, democracy worked and a peaceful transition is now underway. We can never, ever take it for granted.

Arne Duncan was U.S. secretary of education in the Obama administration. April Ryan is a long-time journalist and White House correspondent for theGrio.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Undocumented immigrants deserve relief, too

Unlike the first wave of COVID-19 relief, known as the CARES Act, the latest coronavirus relief package signed by the president late last year granted stimulus payments to the 1 million spouses of undocumented immigrants who have citizenship.

But the new package is not a victory for all members of immigrant families. It provides nothing for the roughly 3.5 million children, including 2.2 million citizens, whose parents lack a Social Security number but who still pay taxes.

The third stimulus that the Biden administration is now drafting must provide these children with relief by including their taxpaying parents, regardless of their legal status.

As the bill excludes undocumented immigrants who file their taxes with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number — a number the Internal Revenue Service grants to those ineligible for a Social Security number — it therefore excludes the children of undocumented immigrants, too.

In the United States, public policy has traditionally treated the U.S.-born children of undocumented parents just like other citizens. The Trump administration, however, has created a dangerous precedent of discriminating against families with mixed immigration status.

In April 2019, President Donald Trump proposed evicting families from public housing solely because they had an undocumented family member. And the White House introduced language into the first CARES Act to exclude households with one undocumented member from receiving stimulus payments.

Undocumented immigrants are already excluded from unemployment benefits. And a Trump administration policy implemented in February 2020 that penalized immigrants who use public benefits has also made many leery of applying for food stamps or income support for their children with citizenship. Now, the failure of the second coronavirus relief bill to redress the initial exclusion of these children only further ensures that they grow up as second-class citizens.

Because undocumented immigrants are ineligible for any federal aid, lockdowns create unequal burdens for their children. Depriving undocumented immigrants of economic relief saddles their children with unequal life chances.

Karla, for example, is a 13-year-old daughter of undocumented parents living near Vail, Colorado. When the pandemic caused the restaurants where her parents worked to close, they lost seven months of income between them. In order to pay their monthly rent, her parents were forced to deplete Karla and her sister's college fund.

Similarly, Bruno is an 18-year-old high school senior living with his undocumented parents and grandparents. In the spring, his mother and grandmother lost their work cleaning homes and his father lost his construction job. Bruno was the only family member with valid papers, and the only member who could obtain work at the big retail stores that remained open during the lockdown. So Bruno began working 36 hours a week at a Walmart. He now has to repeat his senior year because of the lost study time.

It is unjust for lawmakers to ignore the plight of children growing up in mixed-status families, just as it is unjust for them

By **SARAH HORTON**

Progressive Media Project



Sarah B. Horton is a professor of anthropology at the University of Colorado Denver and author of They Leave Their Kidneys in the Fields: Illness, Injury, and Illegality among U.S. Farmworkers. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.

to exclude their taxpaying parents. Undocumented immigrants pay billions in state and local taxes each year, and more than half pay federal income taxes.

Moreover, out of an estimated 7 million undocumented immigrants in the workforce, 5 million serve as essential workers on the front lines of the pandemic — in farmwork, food services, construction and maintenance.

In November, Biden indicated his support for the HEROES Act, legislation that would have provided stimulus payments to all taxpayers, not just those with Social Security numbers. The newly elected president's stimulus plan must not forget the undocumented immigrants who have supported the country during the pandemic. These heroes and their children deserve an economic lifeline.

America is making me feel like Sarah Connor

Lately I've been thinking about Sarah Connor and motherhood. She's the Los Angeles waitress in the "Terminator" film series who, upon learning that her as-yet-unborn son must survive in a dystopic future and save humanity from destruction by artificial intelligence, dedicates herself to preparing him for the terrifying role.

As a natural-born citizen of what I believed to be a largely benign and prosperous democracy, I have prepared my two sons for nothing of the sort. I'm beginning to wonder whether I should reconsider.

In "Terminator," it takes only a few minutes for a traveler from the future to convince Connor that she's the mother of the savior of the human race. She's like, OK what next? Gullible as this might seem, it's the most believable part of the movie for me. She's ready to do anything to protect her kid. She goes on to teach him how to become a fearless leader and to fight like hell for his beliefs.

In a sense, Sarah was lucky: She knew what was coming. The real world is less certain, but looking increasingly ominous. The past year has brought a global pandemic, life-threatening shortages, ugly hoarding, violent clashes between protesters and police, the spectacle of a U.S. president seeking to undermine the peaceful transfer of power and, most recently, a mob invading the Capitol. Even if vaccination conquers the virus, the country seems woefully unprepared to address the problems that were

festered before it arrived. We're deeply divided by race, income, resources and the realities in which people choose to believe.

Where will Americans find common ground when, with the help of social media, it will be all too easy to ignore people waiting in food lines and be glad to finally get back to the opera? Who needs an evil AI when we intentionally program computers to deliver the news we want to hear and the outrage we have become addicted to?

Having kids is an inherently optimistic act. Parents want to believe in a bright future. We tell them tales about studying hard, going to college, getting a good job, and having a good life. We train them to expect reasonable rewards for reasonable work, and to expect others to adhere to shared principles. But that's hardly responsible if we think there's even a small possibility that they will encounter civil unrest, widespread economic strife or even war. In that future, they'd be better off knowing how to use a handgun, build a fire or forage for edible weeds.

My father actually prepared me pretty well for today's world, albeit unintentionally. He was a narcissist, so he bestowed upon me an intuitive understanding of Trump. (Short version: If everyone's talking about him, he's winning his particular game, which is all about attention. Stop looking for deeper meaning.) I predict that the malaise of Trumpism will persist even after the president leaves office, because he's more a result than a cause of

and cannot share their views with other Americans on these extraordinarily powerful means of communication? Can they—should they—be trusted to have such authority to determine the bounds of public discourse in our democracy?

Radio as a model

Our nation faced a somewhat similar question with the advent of radio in the 1920s. At that time, with only a small number of frequencies available in any location, the fear was that a small number of wealthy individuals could buy up all the frequencies in a city such as Chicago and completely dominate this powerful new means of communication and then distort and corrupt our democracy.

With that concern in mind, Congress enacted the Communications Act of 1934, which established the Federal Communications Commission and granted it broad power to regulate the broadcast spectrum. The FCC then adopted the Fairness Doctrine, which imposed on radio and television broadcasters the requirement that discussion of public issues be presented in a fair and balanced manner.

In 1960, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Fairness Doctrine, noting that "there is no sanctuary in the First Amendment for unlimited private censorship operating in a me-

By **CATHY O'NEIL**

Bloomberg Opinion



Cathy O'Neil is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. She is a mathematician who has worked as a professor, hedge-fund analyst and data scientist. She founded ORCAA, an algorithmic auditing company, and is the author of Weapons of Math Destruction.

our national narcissism—of our relentless pursuit of unenlightened self-interest. This particular personality disorder is really hard to treat, and I'm worried that I haven't prepared my kids for the arbitrary cruelty it inflicts.

Does that mean I'm going to fill up a hangar with automatic rifles, to collect after my son and a robot break me free from the asylum? No, I'm not there yet. I'm not even willing to go pandemic bean dad on my kids. I still hold out hope that the world I've been conjuring their entire childhoods can somehow still exist—that if they do what's expected of them they'll end up OK, with a decent chance at a happy life. I'm not as quick as Sarah Connor was to accept a new vision of the future. I hope I'm not making a mistake.

dium not open to all." The Fairness Doctrine remained in effect until repealed by the Reagan administration in 1987.

The question we face going forward is whether social media should be subject to similar government regulations. Should Facebook, Twitter and other major social media platforms be required by law to operate in a fair and balanced manner? Should they be required by law to function in a manner consistent with the First Amendment? Should they be required by law to ensure that individuals are exposed to both sides of a question in a responsible and evenhanded manner? Should they be constrained from taking down material that is protected by the First Amendment? This is a fundamental question our nation must wrestle with in the future.

If we move in that direction, what would that tell us about the decision to remove Trump from Twitter and Facebook? Would it be constitutional for the government to remove Trump from social media because of his past and recent posts? Were his consistently and dangerously false posts about the outcome of the election and about the protest/riots at the U.S. Capitol protected by the First Amendment, or did he go beyond the bounds of the First Amendment by intentionally inciting a likely and imminent seditious riot? That would be the critical question.

SOCIAL

From Page 11






pendent President Donald Trump from its service "due to the risk of further incitement of violence."

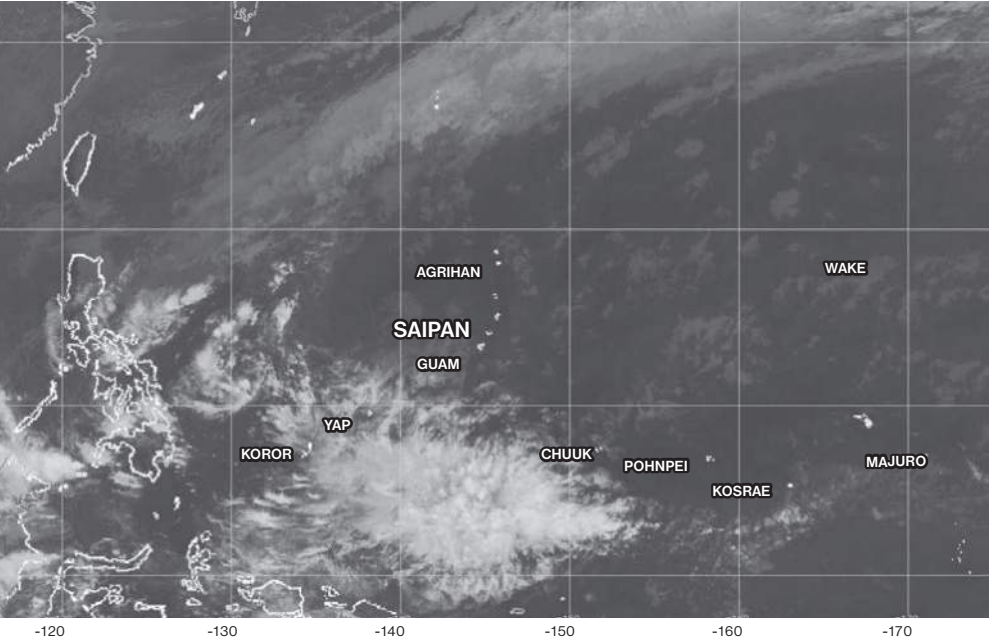
Twitter said on Jan. 8, 2021, that it had permanently suspended President Donald Trump from its service "due to the risk of further incitement of violence." (Twitter)

That decision, however, stands alone, and it has never been followed. If it had remained good law, it would be interesting to see how that principle would apply to Twitter and Facebook. But the decision in Marsh was a one-time anomaly. It is not the law, and for all practical purposes it has not been the law for three-quarters of a century.

But that leaves our nation with a puzzle. If, let us suppose, the United States government could not constitutionally pass a law banning Trump from using Twitter or Facebook, why should Twitter and Facebook be allowed to do so? Even if they are private enterprises and not the government, they have enormous power and influence over public discourse in our nation. Should they have unlimited authority to decide for themselves who can

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	
86°	77°	86°	77°	86°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:37 AM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

East trade-winds prevail over the Marianas this morning. Radar and satellite imagery show cloudy skies with patches of showers.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION

Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING

For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	84° / 76°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:06 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:06 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:07 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:07 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:24 AM	8:04 PM	-
Saturday	9:10 AM	8:59 PM	-
Sunday	9:51 AM	9:50 PM	-
Monday	10:29 AM	10:38 PM	-
Tuesday	11:04 AM	11:25 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	76° / 62°	
Beijing	Sunny	39° / 14°	
Hong Kong	Sunny	67° / 58°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	82° / 70°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	38° / 33°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	86° / 56°	
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 75°	
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	66° / 55°	
Miami	Showers	73° / 62°	
New York	Mostly Cloudy	48° / 44°	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	58° / 42°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	38° / 29°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	60° / 35°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	55° / 32°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	53° / 32°	
San Francisco	Fog	60° / 47°	
Seoul	Cloudy	45° / 16°	
Tokyo	Cloudy	48° / 39°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	52° / 36°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:09 AM	Low Tide	-0.68	
10:16 AM	High Tide	1.73	
3:48 PM	Low Tide	1.00	
8:25 PM	High Tide	1.69	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	3, 5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
GUAM TO ROTA				2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily				
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily				
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily				
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily				
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable				

Business

HAFADAI SAIPAN:

Saipan's baby store

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Hafadai Saipan at the Paseo de Marianas is not a tourist shop but more like Saipan's own baby product central.

Wendy Piao, who manages the store, said they opened it in 2016 so everyone can have

access to good quality and affordable baby products like diapers, baby formula, baby bottle nipples, baby toys, and the like.

"Baby products are not expensive in the U.S., but here on Saipan they're very expensive. Good quality

baby products shouldn't only be enjoyed by rich people. Ordinary people should also be able to buy them," said Piao in an interview with

Saipan Tribune.

Piao said she used to be a young mom and knows too

For more information, call 233-6636



PHOTOS BY MARK RABAGO

Hafadai Saipan is located at Paseo de Marianas across Paris Croissant and is open from 10:30am to 7pm, Monday-Sunday.



Hafadai Saipan also sells high quality baby clothes imported from the U.S.

well the difficulty of shopping for baby products when you live on an island in the middle of the Pacific.

"I also have kids and when they were young I would go to the stores and find their mom and baby products to be too pricey," said Piao, whose children are now 7 and 3 years old.

She told herself, "Why are they so pricey?" That's when the idea of setting up Hafadai Saipan was born.

Since 2016, Hafadai Saipan has been the island's best-kept secret when it comes to affordable but quality baby products. "It's for locals. They can get good value. We bring good products at an affordable price that we can then offer to local residents," said Piao.

Aside from the business they get from residents, Hafadai Saipan also caters to tourists, being at the center of the island's tourist district in Garapan. Unfortunately, that market has dried up since international flights stopped on account of the COVID-19

pandemic.

"We can't really take advantage of our prime location in Garapan since there are no tourists at this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [With] no tourists, we have reduced [sales] like 50% down since the pandemic stopped flights to the CNMI."

Luckily, Piao said, they still have their loyal local customers to turn to. "Of course our sales have fallen down, but we're just lucky that we still have loyal customers that buy their baby products at our store. They buy mostly diapers and formula. That makes up 60% of our merchandise, with the rest made up of baby clothes, toys, and other baby essentials like bath soap, shampoo, and conditioner."

Aside from the usual baby products, Hafadai Saipan also sells teething, baby snacks, baby umbrellas, baby mobile for cribs, walkers, strollers, car seats, and baby shoes.

Currently, Hafadai Saipan

has a sale with most products 10% off. Toys like their extensive stock of Legos are all 20% off.

Piao said they only closed for a couple of days when the CNMI recorded its first COVID-19 case back in March. She also assured their store strictly abides by the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force's protocols like directional arrows, social distancing, use of hand sanitizers and face masks, temperature check, and customers having to sign in before entering for contact tracing.

Future plans include expanding Hafadai Saipan after the pandemic and the local economy stabilizes so the store can bring in more quality baby products.

Hafadai Saipan is located at Paseo de Marianas across Paris Croissant and is open from 10:30am to 7pm, Monday-Sunday. For more information, call 233-6636 or like their Facebook page "Hafadai Saipan Wendy."



Hafadai Saipan currently has a sale with most products 10% off.

China 2020 exports up despite virus; surplus surges to \$535B

BEIJING (AP)—China's exports rose in 2020 despite pressure from the coronavirus and a tariff war with Washington, boosting its politically volatile trade surplus to \$535 billion, one of the highest ever reported.

Exports increased 3.6% over 2019 to \$2.6 trillion, an improvement on the previous year's 0.5% gain, customs data showed Thursday. Imports edged down 1.1% to just over \$2 trillion, but growth was strong in the second half after China became the first major economy to revive following the pandemic.

Exports to the United States rose 7.9% over 2019 to \$45.2 billion despite tariff hikes on most Chinese goods by the Trump administration in a

feud with Beijing over technology and security. Imports of U.S. goods rose 9.8% to \$13.5 billion, boosted by Beijing's promise as part of a truce in that conflict to buy more American soybeans, natural gas and other exports.

China's exporters benefited from the relatively early reopening of its economy and demand for masks and other Chinese-made medical supplies.

Exporters have taken market share from foreign competitors that face still anti-virus curbs, but that advantage is expected to fade as coronavirus vaccines are rolled out and other economies return to normal. Demand for medical goods also is receding.

"The current strength of

exports is unlikely to be sustained indefinitely," said Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics in a report. He said imports "are likely to drop back" as the government reduces high spending and other support for economic activity.

Global exports surged 18.1% in December over a year earlier to \$281.9 billion. Imports rose 6.5% to \$203.7 billion, reflecting a rebound in Chinese consumer demand after the ruling Communist Party reopened factories, shopping malls, offices and auto dealerships.

December exports to the United States were \$4.6 billion. Imports of American goods were \$1.6 billion, giving China a \$3 billion surplus.

Twitter CEO defends Trump ban, warns of dangerous precedent

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey defended his company's ban of President Donald Trump in a lengthy Twitter thread, although he warned that it could set a dangerous precedent.

When Trump incited his followers to storm the U.S. Capitol last week, then continued to tweet potentially ominous messages, Dorsey said the risk to public safety created "extraordinary and untenable circumstance" for the company. Having already briefly suspended Trump's account the day of the Capitol riot, Twitter on Friday banned Trump entirely, then smacked down the president's attempt to tweet

using other accounts.

"I believe this was the right decision for Twitter," wrote Dorsey, in one of the thread's plainest-spoken sentences.

But he also acknowledged that actions like the Trump ban amount to a "failure" by Twitter to avoid such situations in the first place, presumably through better and more effective moderation. Extreme measures such as banning Trump highlight the extraordinary power that companies like Twitter can wield, Dorsey wrote — not to mention the collateral damage that such actions can lead to.

While Twitter was grappling with the problem of Trump,

Apple, Google and Amazon were moving to effectively shut down the right-wing site Parler by denying it access to app stores and cloud-hosting services, ostensibly because the platform wasn't aggressive enough about removing calls to violence. While declining to criticize his Big Tech counterparts directly, Dorsey suggested that such exercises of power could undermine the "noble purpose and ideals" of the open internet.

The Twitter co-founder, however, had little specific to say about how his platform or other Big Tech companies could avoid such choices in the future.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

31,041.00
82.00
+0.26%

S&P

3,809.50
+5.75
+0.15%

NASDAQ

12,947.75
-24.50
-0.19%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms			
Australian Dollar	1.29	Hong Kong Dollar	7.75
British Pound	0.7332	Indian Rupee	73.17
Canadian Dollar	1.27	Indonesian Rupiah	14,060
Chinese Yuan	6.3729	Japanese Yen	103.87
Euro	0.8226	Malaysian Ringgit	4.04
		New Zealand Dollar	1.39
		Philippine Peso	48.07
		Singapore Dollar	1.33
		South Korean Won	1099.83
		Swiss Franc	0.89
		Taiwan Dollar	28.00
		Thailand Baht	30.03

Nation

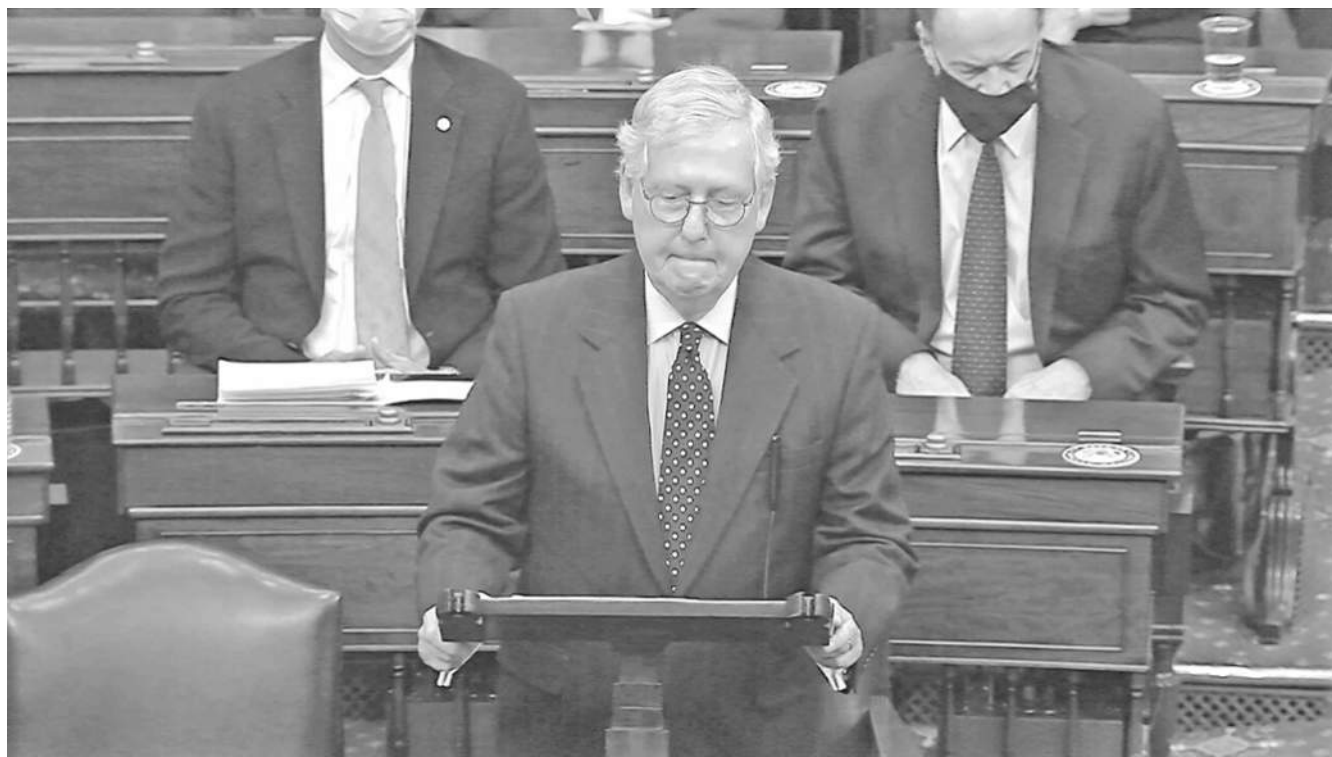
McConnell open to convicting Trump in impeachment trial

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell pointedly did not rule out that he might eventually vote to convict the now twice-impeached President Donald Trump, but he also blocked a quick Senate impeachment trial.

Minutes after the House voted 232-197 on Wednesday to impeach Trump, McConnell said in a letter to his GOP colleagues that he's not determined whether Trump should be convicted in the Senate's upcoming proceedings. The House impeachment articles charge that Trump incited insurrection by exhorting supporters who violently attacked the Capitol last week, resulting in five deaths and a disruption of Congress.

"I have not made a final decision on how I will vote and I intend to listen to the legal arguments when they are presented to the Senate," McConnell wrote.

McConnell's openness was a stark contrast to the support, or at times silence, he's shown during much of Trump's presidency, and to the opposition he expressed rapidly when the House impeached Trump 13 months ago. McConnell will be Washington's most powerful Republican once Democratic President-elect Joe Biden is inaugurated, and McConnell's increasingly chilly



AP
In this image from video, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., speaks as the Senate reconvenes after protesters stormed into the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021.

view of Trump could make it easier for other GOP lawmakers to turn against him.

McConnell's burgeoning alienation from Trump, plus the 10 House Republicans who voted to impeach him, underscored how the GOP's long, reflexive support and condoning of Trump's actions was eroding.

McConnell also issued a statement saying Congress and the government should spend the next week "completely focused on facilitating a safe inauguration and an orderly transfer of power" to

Biden. He suggested Trump's Senate trial would begin no earlier than Jan. 19 — in effect rejecting a drive by the chamber's Democrats to begin the proceedings immediately so Trump could be ousted from office.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said that unless McConnell reverses himself and agrees to quickly start the trial, it would begin after Jan. 19. That's a day before Biden is inaugurated as president and about the time Democrats take over majority control of the Sen-

ate. The timetable essentially means McConnell is dropping the trial into Democrats' laps.

"Make no mistake, there will be an impeachment trial in the United States Senate," Schumer said. He added, "If the president is convicted, there will be a vote on barring him from running again."

The Constitution requires a two-thirds majority to convict a president, meaning at least 17 Republicans would need to join all 50 Democrats to oust Trump. If Trump were convicted, it would take only

a simple majority of the Senate to prohibit Trump, who's mentioned running again in 2024, from holding federal office again.

Earlier Wednesday, a GOP strategist said McConnell has told people he thinks Trump perpetrated impeachable offenses. McConnell also saw House Democrats' drive to impeach Trump as an opportune moment to distance the GOP from the tumultuous, divisive outgoing president, according to the strategist, who spoke on condition of anonymity to de-

scribe private conversations.

McConnell's views were first reported by The New York Times.

McConnell spoke to major Republican donors last weekend to assess their thinking about Trump and was told that they believed Trump had clearly crossed a line, the strategist said. McConnell told them he was finished with Trump, according to the consultant.

The Democratic-led House approved an impeachment article accusing Trump of inciting insurrection, an unprecedented second impeachment of his clamorous presidency. Trump exhorted a throng of his followers to march on the Capitol last Wednesday, where they disrupted Congress' formal certification of Biden's win in a deadly riot that produced widespread damage.

McConnell is looking out for his party's long-term future, but moving toward a political divorce from Trump could mean that congressional Republicans will face challenges in GOP primaries.

Capitol investigators try to sort real tips from noise

WASHINGTON (AP)—Potential threats and leads are pouring in to law enforcement agencies nationwide after the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. The challenge is now figuring out what's real and what's just noise.

Investigators are combing through a mountain of online posts, street surveillance and other intelligence, including information that suggests mobs could try to storm the Capitol again and threats to kill some members of Congress.

Security is being tightened from coast to coast. Thousands of National Guard troops are guarding the Capitol ahead of President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration. Governors and lawmakers are stepping up protections at statehouses after an FBI bulletin this week warned of threats to legislative sessions and other inaugural ceremonies.

A primary concern is the safety of members of Congress, particularly when they are traveling through airports, according to two U.S. officials briefed on the matter.

The FBI and other federal

authorities use their substantial resources to prepare. But smaller local police departments lack the staff to hunt down every tip. They must rely heavily on state and federal assessments to inform their work, and that information sometimes slips through the cracks — which apparently happened last week.

A day before the deadly attack on the Capitol, the FBI sent an intelligence bulletin warning of potential violence to other agencies, including the Capitol Police. But officials either did not receive it or ignored it — and instead prepared for a free-speech protest, not a riot. It took nearly two hours for reinforcements to arrive to help disperse the mob. Five people died, including a Capitol officer.

"There are some grammar schools that are better protected than the Capitol," said Brian Higgins, a professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York and the former chief of a northern New Jersey police force.

Since last week, the FBI has opened 170 case files and

received more than 100,000 pieces of digital media. The threats have ranged in specificity and complexity, according to officials briefed on them, making it difficult for authorities to determine which could be credible.

Combing through intelligence isn't the same as shoe-leather detective work. Large departments like New York and Los Angeles have dedicated intelligence units — the NYPD even disseminated its own bulletin ahead of the riot. But smaller police forces rely on joint terrorism task forces and so-called fusion centers that were set up around the country after the 2001 attacks to improve communication between agencies.

Norton, Kansas, Police Chief Gerald Cullumber leads a seven-member department in the northwestern part of the state. He said he relies on larger agencies like the Kansas Highway Patrol because his agency is too small to do its own intelligence work. But Cullumber said he stays up to date on the latest information and briefs his officers.

Calls to reopen classrooms grow as teachers get vaccinated

State leaders around the U.S. are increasingly pushing for schools to reopen this winter—pressuring them, even—as teachers begin to gain access to the vaccine against the raging pandemic.

Ohio's governor offered to give vaccinations to teachers at the start of February, provided their school districts agree to resume at least some in-person instruction by March 1. In Arizona, where teachers began receiving shots this week, the governor warned schools that he expects students back in the classroom despite objections from top education officials and the highest COVID-19 diagnosis rate in the nation over the past week.

"We will not be funding empty seats or allowing schools to remain in a perpetual state of closure," said Republican Gov. Doug Ducey. "Children still need to learn, even in a pandemic."

Leaders of Arizona's major hospitals disagreed with the governor's position, noting at a news conference Wednesday that the state is teetering on the brink of hav-

ing to ration life-saving care.

"We understand that learning and bringing our children together is very important," said Dr. Michael White of Valleywise Health. "But at this time with uncontrolled spread of the virus, we need to do things that we know will reduce the chance that the virus will spread and that is not gathering with people we don't live with."

The U.S. recorded an all-time, one-day high of 4,327 deaths on Tuesday, according to Johns Hopkins University. The nation's overall death toll from COVID-19 has topped 380,000, closing in fast on the number of Americans killed in World War II. Confirmed infections have reached about 23 million.

President-elect Joe Biden initially pledged to reopen a majority of the nation's schools in his first 100 days but recently revised the goal to most of the country's K-8 schools. He has said teachers should be eligible for vaccinations as soon as possible after those who are at highest risk.

Some states aren't wait-

ing, but the process can be scattershot.

Meika Mark, a ninth-grade English teacher in Orange County, New York, got vaccinated Tuesday at a hospital, using a link a friend texted her.

"It's just word of mouth: 'Here's a link and hopefully you get a slot,'" said Mark, who contracted the virus in March and spent the rest of the school year teaching remotely. "I know of a woman who had her husband sit in front of a computer literally all day and just click the refresh button until an appointment came up."

Mark, 34, is now doing some in-person teaching and is grateful for the added layer of protection.

High school band director Michael Crookston was among the first teachers to get a vaccination in Utah, which is among the earliest states to give priority to educators. Crookston has been in the classroom since the new school year began, despite having diabetes, which puts him at greater risk from the coronavirus.

Asia

Japan widens virus emergency to 7 more areas as cases surge

TOKYO (AP)—Japan expanded a coronavirus state of emergency to seven more prefectures Wednesday, affecting more than half the population amid a surge in infections across the country.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga also said Japan will suspend fast-track entry exceptions for business visitors or others with residency permits, fully banning foreign visitors while the state of emergency is in place.

Suga's announcement comes less than a week after he declared a state of emergency for Tokyo and three nearby prefectures. The new declaration, which adds seven other prefectures in western and central Japan, takes effect

Thursday and lasts until Feb. 7.

"The severe situation is continuing, but these measures are indispensable in turning the tide for the better," Suga said at a news conference, bowing as he sought understanding from the public.

He said he put the seven prefectures in urban areas under the state of emergency to prevent infections from spilling over into smaller cities where medical systems are more vulnerable.

The government is asking bars and restaurants in Osaka, Kyoto, Hyogo, Fukuoka, Aichi, Gifu and Tochigi prefectures to close by 8 p.m., employers to have 70% of their staff work from home and residents in the affected

areas avoid going out for non-essential purposes.

Suga has been criticized as being too slow to act as the country's reported coronavirus infections and deaths roughly doubled over the past month to about 300,000 and 4,100 respectively. Both states of emergency were declared only after local leaders pleaded with him to do so.

Experts have warned that even the emergency declarations, which are nonbinding and largely rely on voluntary cooperation, may be insufficient to significantly slow the infections.

Unlike an earlier seven-week emergency Japan had in April and May last year, schools, gyms, theaters and shops will stay open.

Suga has faced criticism for not taking strong enough government action earlier in the outbreak. He mostly limited his interventions to asking the public to take basic safety measures such as wearing masks, washing hands and avoiding drinking and dining in groups until mid-December, when he finally announced the suspension of a government-subsidized domestic tourism campaign.

Suga eventually took action after calls from the local leaders, while his support ratings nosedived in polls showing the public increasingly dissatisfied with his handling of the virus. He also came under fire for attending a pricy steak dinner that had eight participants in mid-December.

Suga took office in mid-September and pledged to keep the infections under control while also getting the economy back on track. He also promised to successfully hold the Tokyo Olympics, which were postponed from last year until this coming summer.

Despite the current surge in infections, Japan has reported far fewer infections than many countries of its size.

Japan made it through earlier surges in infections without a lockdown, but experts and officials warn that people are growing fatigued and are becoming less cooperative than before.

In a bid to more effectively enforce virus measures, Suga has said he will seek a legal revision in parliament next week

to allow authorities to penalize business owners who defy official requests for coronavirus measures, while legally providing compensation to those who comply. Suga's government also plans to revise the infectious disease control law so it can penalize patients who defy self-isolation requirements, hospitalization or cooperation with health authorities, Japanese media reports say.

Japan Medical Association President Toshio Nakagawa said at a news conference Wednesday that medical systems in the country have been collapsing, with regular daily treatment at many hospitals compromised due to the growing burden of coronavirus patients.

Demoted? Pushed aside? Fate of Kim Jong Un's sister unclear

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—What has happened to Kim Yo Jong, the North Korean leader's influential sister?

That is a question many who watch the cloistered, nuclear-armed country are wondering after she failed to appear in absolute leader Kim Jong Un's newly released lineup for the country's powerful Politburo in recent days.

Some say Kim Jong Un may have demoted his sister over general policy failures. Others, however, believe he could be worried about her rapid rise and increasingly high profile as he tries to bolster his domestic authority in the face of growing economic challenges.

Rumors that Kim Yo Jong is her brother's heir apparent could be dangerous because they "raise the issue of Kim's hold on power and health inside North Korea," said Oh Gyeong-seob, an analyst at Seoul's Korea Institute for

National Unification. This, he said, is why Kim Jong Un is slowing down her rise in power.

The development is a surprise because Kim Yo Jong, who became an alternate member of the Politburo last year, was widely expected to receive a full bureau membership during a ruling Workers' Party congress that ended Tuesday. A Politburo membership is viewed as crucial for high-level officials hoping to thrive in Kim Jong Un's government because he's made key decisions at bureau meetings, including the 2013 move to execute his powerful uncle Jang Song Taek, and the 2012 purge of military chief Ri Yong Ho.

Chinese city tests millions amid new outbreak

BEIJING (AP)—Millions of people lined in freezing temperatures Wednesday to receive a second round of coronavirus tests in a city south of Beijing that is at the heart of China's most serious recent outbreak of COVID-19.

The National Health Commission announced Wednesday that another 90 confirmed cases have been reported in Hebei province, whose capital Shijiazhuang has accounted for the vast majority of recent cases. Another 16 cases were reported in the northeastern province of Heilongjiang and one in the northern province of Shanxi.

China, where the coronavirus was first detected in late 2019, had largely contained domestic spread of the virus

and the new outbreaks come even as authorities push to vaccinate 50 million people by the middle of February.

The Hebei outbreak is of particular concern because of the province's close proximity to Beijing. Travel to and from three cities, Shijiazhuang, Xingtai and Langfang, has been suspended and residents of some communities have been told to stay home for the next week.

All of Shijiazhuang's roughly 10 million people have been ordered to undergo a second round of testing as authorities seek to isolate the sources of the outbreak. Some of the infections have been tentatively linked to wedding gatherings.

Similar measures have been ordered around the country,

particularly in Wuhan, where 11 million people were placed under lockdown for 76 days last winter during the early days of the pandemic.

The increased numbers come as World Health Organization experts prepare to fly on Thursday to Wuhan at the start of their investigation into the origins of the pandemic.

China has rejected calls for an independent investigation while strictly controlling all research into the origins of the coronavirus and promoting fringe theories that the virus may have actually been brought to China from outside.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ Indonesian President Joko Widodo received the first shot of a Chinese-made COV-

ID-19 vaccine on Wednesday after Indonesia approved it for emergency use. The world's fourth most populated country plans to vaccinate millions of health care workers and other high-risk groups in the coming months. Top military, police and medical officials also were vaccinated, as well as the secretary of the Indonesian Ulema Council, the clerical body that last week had ruled the vaccine was halal and could be taken by Muslims. Health officials are still working to secure access to enough doses to protect around 67% of the population. Authorities have conceded the effort might be marred by infrastructure issues like keeping the vaccines cold enough to maintain their effectiveness.

ALLIED PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT CORP.
IS LOOKING FOR:
CIVIL ENGINEER (1)
AT LEAST MINIMUM OF 5 YEARS
EXPERIENCE, GREEN CARD
OR US CITIZEN PREFERRED.
RATE: \$18/HR STARTING SALARY
IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL
SCOTT MALIN AT 788-3381 OR
EMAIL Lillibaptista21@yahoo.com

Blue Eagle Enterprises, LLC.
is accepting application for:
20-11-88108 ELECTRICAL ENGINEER
No. of Opening: One (1)
Salary Range: \$41.00 hourly
Job Classification: Engineering Occupations
Job Duties: Prepare computation of electrical, technical drawings, specifications for electrical systems; prepare specifications for purchase of materials/equipment; estimate labor, material and construction costs for budget purposes, plan control, and direct operations of multi-venture enterprises led by electrical construction contracting business.
Qualification Requirements:
Must be a graduate of B.S. Electrical Engineering, five years work experience in related field. Must be familiar with computer systems for electrical design and drawings. Knowledge of practical application of engineering, science and technology, effective reasoning, problem solving and communication skills, management and supervisory experience in business. Interested applicants may email their comprehensive resume with employment certificates, college diploma or transcript of records to blue_eagle_enterprises@yahoo.com or may call telephone number (670) 233-3839 from Monday to Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm.

VEHICLE FOR SALE

2016 KIA FORTE EX 2WD 5DN - BLACK COLOR

For more information, please contact Bank of Guam through its counsel,
Robert T. Torres at
Telephone Numbers (670) 234-7859 - (670) 234-5750.

Bids will be closed on FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021 AT 5:00PM

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers.
The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties - **Minimum bid is \$7,500.00.** The winning bidder shall tender the full bid amount upon acceptance

Inspection and a vehicle bid form can be obtained from
Bank of Guam counsel's office at:
ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ADDENDUM NO. 1**

**LEASE OF SIX (6) FIFTEEN-PASSENGER VANS FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

ITB21-COTA/FTA-033

This addendum is issued to amend the title of the Invitation to Bid and to add into the specifications.

- **The title:** "Lease of Six (6) Fifteen-Passenger Mini-Vans" is changed to read **"Lease of Six (6) Fifteen-Passenger Vans for the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority"**.
- **In the specifications:** Anywhere that references **"Mini-Vans"** on ITB21-COTA/FTA-033 should be corrected to **"VANS"**
- **To include in the specifications:**
 1. Maximum passenger capacity per vehicle is 15-Passengers
 2. The duration of contract shall be for one (1) year with an option to terminate when in the best interest of the CNMI government.

All other requirements in the Invitation to Bid announcement no. ITB21-COTA/FTA-033 shall remain the same.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
S/A FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**Marketing and Membership Manager/
Assistant Manager**

Pay Rate: \$9.00 to \$15/hour based on applicant's qualification and experience.

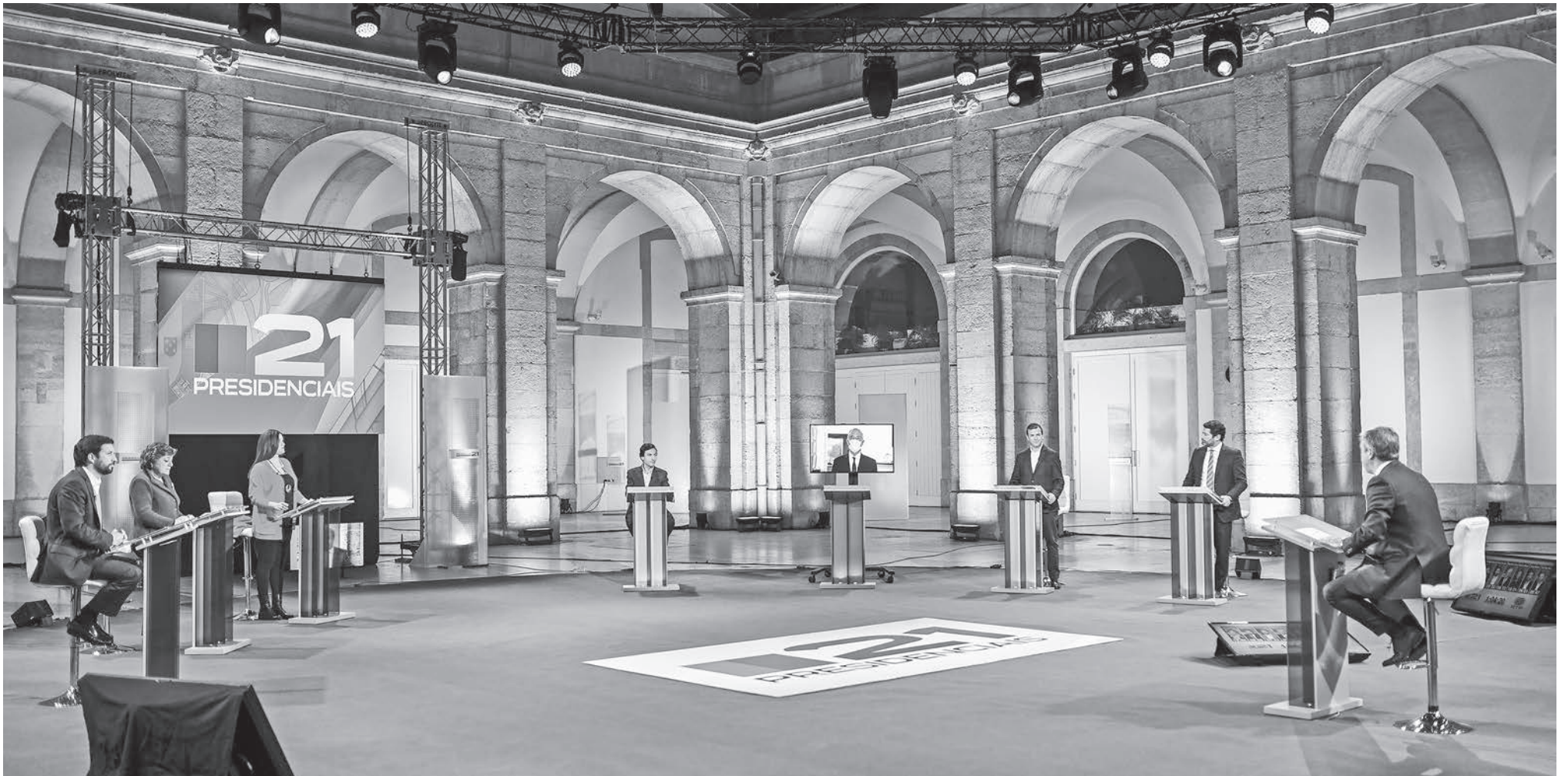
Job Description: Must have a minimum of 3 years with customer relations/ loyalty club promotions, or 3 years experience as a marketing supervisor/ manager, along with 3 years of experience with E-gaming/ slot Club or Casino loyalty and or marketing. Applicants must be knowledgeable and capable of developing customer loyalty programs and creating promotion that has potential to attract customers and creating and maintaining marketing project timelines.

Excellent organizational and written/oral communication skills.

Proactive, organized, efficient, detail-oriented, unassailable focus on the basics, tenacious (persistent about bringing open items to closure), accountable, and enthusiastic.

Interested parties may contact Kevin Perez at Kevin.perez@saipancountryclub.com

World



Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, who is seeking a second term in the country's presidential election on Jan. 24, participates through video link, center, in a presidential election debate on national television, Tuesday night, Jan. 12, 2021. AP

Portugal goes into lockdown amid record-breaking virus surge

LISBON, Portugal (AP)—Portugal's government ordered the country into a coronavirus lockdown Wednesday, but with exceptions so a presidential election can go ahead on Jan. 24.

Portugal has witnessed a record-breaking surge in confirmed COVID-19 cases since it eased restrictions for the Christmas holiday.

Prime Minister António Costa said the pandemic is "at its most dangerous point." The lockdown starting Friday will last at least a month, he said.

A sense of hope prompted by the recent COVID-19 vaccine rollout "encouraged people to drop their guard and makes the pandemic even more dangerous," Costa said during a news conference.

Under the terms of the lockdown, staying at home will be mandatory, including for work, and fines for not complying with rules such as wearing masks in the street will double, the prime minister said.

Schools are to remain open, along with companies providing essential services. Finan-

cial help will be provided for businesses that have to close, such as restaurants, cinemas and hair salons.

Portuguese health authorities on Wednesday reported 10,556 new confirmed cases and 156 virus-related deaths in 24 hours, both national records. Previous records were shattered in recent days. Health experts predict the number of new daily cases will reach a peak in a week's time.

Portugal, which began a vaccination program in the last week of December, has offi-

cially recorded more than 8,200 deaths from the coronavirus.

Its 14-day rate of cases per 100,000 inhabitants is 517, according to the European Centre for Disease Control. That places Portugal in 12th highest place in the table of 31 countries monitored by the European Union agency.

A week ago, the 14-day rate was 466.

The upcoming presidential election is scheduled to go ahead as political leaders deemed a constitutional amendment that would allow

a postponement too difficult to write and pass in a short space of time.

National travel restrictions enacted under the current state of emergency are to be lifted for a day on Jan. 17, when early voting will be permitted, and on the day of the election.

In other exceptional measures, more polling stations than usual will be available to prevent crowds. For the same reason, candidates are favoring online rallies instead of more traditional events.

Health officials will be

available to collect the votes of people in elderly care homes and those in isolation.

A longstanding tradition will be scrapped, too: pens dangling from string in polling booths for people to mark their paper ballots will not be provided. Voters must bring their own pens.

Incumbent candidate Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, who is widely expected to win a second five-year term as Portugal's head of state, has returned to work after two negative tests followed a positive test on Monday.

Britain's Johnson pledges UK vaccine program will run 24-7

LONDON (AP)—Britain's coronavirus vaccine program will operate around the clock seven days a week "as soon as we can," Prime Minister Boris Johnson pledged Wednesday as the U.K. accelerates efforts to inoculate millions of its most vulnerable people against coronavirus.

Johnson said "at the moment, the limit is on supply" of the vaccines rather than on the ability of the country's health service to deliver jabs quickly. The push to inoculate millions quickly comes as a more contagious variant of COVID-19 is sweeping across Britain and driving hospitals to their breaking points.

His comments came as the government said 1,564 more people had died within 28 days of testing positive, the highest figure reported in

Britain on a single day since the pandemic began. Britain already had Europe's highest COVID-19 death toll.

The U.K. is under an indefinite national lockdown to curb the spread of the new variant, with nonessential shops, gyms and hairdressers closed, most people working from home and schools largely offering remote learning. But some are calling for even tougher measures.

Scotland's leader, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, tightened restrictions Wednesday, barring the consumption of alcohol outdoors and barring the public from going inside businesses to collect takeaway orders.

The U.K. government has set a goal of delivering the first vaccine dose to everyone over age 70, as well as frontline health care workers, nursing home residents and

anyone whose health makes them especially vulnerable to the virus, by the middle of February. That's more than 15 million people.

Vaccinations will be given at hundreds of doctors' offices and community pharmacies, 50 mass vaccination sites at convention centers and sports stadiums, as well as at 223 hospitals.

Britain is already using the COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech and Oxford-AstraZeneca and has approved one made by Moderna, but that one is not expected to be delivered until spring.

The pace of the country's vaccination drive remains a constant source of discussion.

Johnson's comments came as his vaccines minister, Nadhim Zahawi, testified before a parliamentary committee

that the government now had "line of sight" of deliveries to the end of February but side-stepped questions about week-by-week vaccine deliveries.

"In any manufacturing process, especially one where you're dealing with a biological compound, a novel vaccine, is lumpy at the outset," he told the Commons Science and Technology Committee. "There's no doubt that it was, but getting better. ... We have millions of doses coming through in the weeks and then next month and the month after."

The challenge, Zahawi said, was not just getting vaccine shots into people's arms, but the difficulty of reaching vulnerable people. Greater daily volumes of inoculations could be achieved if specific groups weren't targeted, he said.

Aid chief: US naming Yemen rebels terrorists a famine threat

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. humanitarian chief is urging the United States to reverse its decision to declare Yemen's Houthi rebels a terrorist group, warning that the designation will likely lead to "a large-scale famine on a scale that we have not seen for nearly 40 years."

Mark Lowcock planned to make the appeal in a speech to the U.N. Security Council on Thursday, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo declared the Iranian-backed Houthis a "foreign terrorist organization" late Sunday and said the designation will take effect Jan. 19, President Donald Trump's last full day in office before Joe Biden

is inaugurated as president.

Lowcock said data show that 16 million of Yemen's 30 million people will go hungry this year.

"Already, about 50,000 people are essentially starving to death in what is essentially a small famine," he said. "Another 5 million are just one step behind them."

Lowcock said every decision made now must take this into account.

Stressing that the terrorist designation has companies pulling back from dealing with Yemenis, Lowcock warned that famine will not be prevented by the licenses the United States has said it will introduce so some humanitarian aid and imports can continue to reach Yemen.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Cafe, croissant, worms? EU agency says worms safe to eat

ROME (AP)—The vaunted Mediterranean diet and the French “bon gout” are getting some competition: The European Union’s food safety agency says worms are safe to eat. The Parma-based agency published a scientific opinion Wednesday on the safety of dried yellow mealworms and gave them a thumbs up. Researchers said the worms, either eaten whole or in powdered form, are a protein-rich snack or ingredient for other foods. Allergic reactions may occur, especially depending on the type of feed given to the bugs, known officially as *Tenebrio molitor* larva. But overall “the panel concludes that the (novel food) is safe under the proposed uses and use levels.” Thus, the European Union has now thrown its weight behind worms in much the same way the United Nations has. The U.N.’s Food and Agriculture Organization in 2013 championed edible bugs as a low-fat, high-protein food for people, pets and livestock that are good for the environment and help feed the hungry.

Missing cat turns up 3 years after California disaster

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)—A pet cat believed killed along with her owner in a huge mudslide has been found three years later. The Animal Shelter Assistance Program in Santa Barbara County says the calico named Patches was brought in as a stray last month and a microchip scan revealed her identity. Patches had been missing since Jan. 9, 2018, when a rainstorm on the vast burn scar of the Thomas Fire sent a debris-laden torrent crashing down through hillside neighborhoods of Montecito, northwest of Los Angeles. Twenty-three people were killed, including cat owner Josie Gower. The devastation of the debris flow was so terrible that the bodies of two victims were never found. The ASAP shelter says Patches was found less than a quarter-mile from where her Montecito home stood. She was reunited with Gower’s partner, Norm Borgatello, on New Year’s Eve. “Though we don’t know exactly what she’s been doing with her life for the past three years, we can see that both Patches and Norm are thrilled to be reunited,” the shelter said in a Facebook post.

Alaska soup kitchen gets large food donation after crash

ANCHORAGE, Alaska

(AP)—An official at an Anchorage soup kitchen said she received as a donation of at least 30,000 pounds (13,608 kilograms) of food on Christmas Eve from a local towing company after a truck carrying the produce crashed. Bean’s Cafe and Children’s Lunchbox CEO Lisa Sauder said the towing company offered her the food after they recovered it from a semi-truck that crashed into a ditch. No one was injured in the crash. The companies that were scheduled to receive the food decided that they could no longer sell the groceries, KTUU-TV reported. “We were just about out of fresh produce,” Sauder said. “This time of year, fresh produce gets harder and harder for us to get and so to be given this gift of produce that we can be given right away for meals ... it’s gonna help so many people.” “It really is kind of a little bit of a Christmas miracle,” she said. Sauder said the donation from Vulcan Towing came at a time when demand at the soup kitchen has never been higher because of hardships from the coronavirus pandemic. “We are daily hearing from people who have never been in this position of not knowing how they’re going to feed their kids or where they’re going to sleep tonight,” Sauder said. The shipment included chicken, eggs, vegetables, hamburgers, strawberries and a variety of other produce. The soup kitchen’s Food Service Director Scott Lingle said the package could serve those in need for up to three weeks. Bean’s Cafe feeds around 700 to 800 people a day.

On the llama: ‘Very chill’ llama found wandering off highway

NEWBURYPORT, Mass. (AP) — A passerby spotted a wandering llama in a field off an interstate in Massachusetts and with the help of an animal control officer, brought it to a farm for safekeeping. Patrick Boddy was driving in Newburyport when he spotted the male gray-and-white llama, stopped his truck and approached it on Monday, the Boston Globe reported. The llama acted “very chill,” as he walked up to him, Boddy told the newspaper. “I had my arm around the thing, kind of calming him down. It was just really gentle and friendly. I knew it must’ve been some kind of pet or something,” said Boddy. Eventually, Kayla Provencher, the animal control officer for Newburyport and West Newbury, was alerted and joined Boddy in the field with the llama.

Fishermen rescue naked fugitive from Australian tree

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Two fishermen have rescued a naked fugitive who they found sitting on a tree branch in Australian crocodile habitat.

Cam Faust said Wednesday he and fellow recreational fisher Kev Joiner heard Luke Voskresensky, 40, yell for help on Sunday as they set crab traps from their dinghy in mangroves on the outskirts of the northern city of Darwin.

Faust said Voskresensky—who was covered in mud, cuts and insect bites—had explained that he had been lost for four days, survived by eating snails and had used his clothes “for bits and pieces over the way.”

“It didn’t make sense to us,” Faust said, referring to the explanation for his nudity. “He had a nest made up in the tree, and he was only laying a

meter (39 inches) above the water and there were crocs in the water so he has done well to survive.”

Joiner said the friends hesitated before bringing Voskresensky on board.

“Once we’d seen how bad he was and how many cuts he had all over him and he was dehydrated and pretty weak ... we thought we’d better get him in the boat,” Joiner said.

“We thought he just must have had a big night after New Year’s and got lost and done himself a mischief in the bush,” he added.

Faust said he stripped to his underwear and handed Voskresensky his shorts and a beer as the trio made their way back to Darwin.

“He looked like he needed a beer, although he was in a bad way,” Faust said.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

†Manuel Aldan Indalecio

Lovingly know as “Manet Lonte”

Born: January 16, 1939 - Passed away: January 11, 2021

HE NOW JOINS HIS:

Parents: Antonio Palacios Indalecio and Trinidad Manibusan Aldan Indalecio
Paternal Grandparents: Maria Muna Palacios / Mariano Cruz Indalecio
Maternal Grandparents: Nicolasa Camacho Manibusan / Manuel Aldan
Parents In-Law: Alejandro Delos Reyes Evangelista and Vicenta Mendiola Lizama (Batitang) Evangelista
Brothers: Jose A. Indalecio, David A. Indalecio
Sister: Rufina Indalecio Duenas
Brothers and Sisters In-Law: Jose Palacios Duenas, Jose Manibusan Quichocho, Juan Lizama Evangelista, Ramon Lizama Evangelista, Merced Muna Indalecio, Elizabeth Roberto Ordenez
Son In-Law: Frankie B. Castro, Marcelo Faisao

Manuel's Life and Love will live in the HEARTS of:

Wife: Ramona Lizama Evangelista Indalecio

Children:

• Lucy B. Quitugua (Vincent Manglona)
 (Marylou/Eugene Ogo & Children, Melanie & Selwyn Ogo & Children, Phillip/Salina & Children, Roseannie/Anthony Atalig & Children, Danny Quitugua/Ricksita Atalig & Children, Rapheal Quitugua/Lewe Hocog)

• Joan D. Aldan (Francisco Aldan)
 (Vincent/Rica Duenas & Children, Marsha Faisao & Children, Nicole/Ben Cepeda & Children)

• Arlene I. Reyes (Nicholas T. Reyes)
 (Paula/Darrel Castro & Children, Christine/Joseph Lizama & Children, Jude/Elyssa Reyes & Children, Leandro Reyes)

• Tina E. Indalecio (†Frankie B. Castro)
 (Sonia Roulette/ Gabby Cabrera and Children, Justice Aaron Evangelista/ Asia Liwag, Augustin Manuel I. Castro)

• Ramon E. Indalecio (Leovanie C. Indalecio)
 (Erwin Indalecio & Children, Alejandra Evangelista, John Jacob/Maurkeesha & Children, Brandon/Joanne Indalecio, Emanuella/Ike Agulto & Children/ Ramon Indalecio Jr., Russel Indalecio, Rayne Indalecio, Rayden Indalecio, Reivanie Indalecio, Zayven Ladore, Zenavee Ladore.

• Everett E. Indalecio (Naydine C. Aguon)
 Dionne/Dave Hosono and Children, Everett Jr. Indalecio, Aaliyah Paige Indalecio, Nia Jade Indalecio, Annia Tacoma Indalecio)

• Fatima I. Borja (Joseph John M. Borja)
 (Francisca Victoria S. Borja & Children, Crispin Joe S. Borja, Eric Jay S. Maratita, Melchor Crispin M. Borja, Joseph John Jr./Evelyn Borja & Children, Dion Julian Borja, Theresita Borja/ Jose Torres, Victoria Vicenta Borja, Savannah Susan Borja)

• Alexandro Evangelista (Grace M. Evangelista)
 Andria Evangelista, Alexa Evangelista

• John Paul (Shawna) E. Indalecio

• GianCarlo Pierre L. Evangelista (Christine S. Evangelista)
 (Gianna Marie Evangelista, Christian Juan-Nathaniel Evangelista)

Reared Children: Nick Emmanuel/Vanessa Reyes and Children, Frankie Junior I. Castro, Mona Monique E. Indalecio/Steven Aguon & Children, Manuel John I. Borja, John Vincent I. Aguon (Inkashin)

Brothers:

Francisco A. Indalecio (Alma Indalecio)
 Antonio A. Indalecio (Rose Indalecio)
 Henry Manalo

Sisters:

Maria I. Quichocho (†Jose M. Quichocho)
 Nicolasa I. Celis (Filipe T. Celis)
 Ana I. Marshall (†Guy Marshall)
 Magdalena I. Jenkins (Dave Jenkins)

He will also be missed by his Caretakers: Josie Boni, Daughters, Fatima Borja, Tina Indalecio and numerous Great Grandchildren, Nieces and Nephews.

The Family of the late Manuel Aldan Indalecio would like to express our profound gratitude to the caretaker, doctor, nurses, paramedics, emergency room nurses and CHCC Staff for your great service and extraordinary assistance while our father was admitted.

Daily Mass of Intentions will be held at Santa Soledad at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, Sunday, and Monday. Mass for the repose of his soul will be celebrated at San Vicente Church at 6:00 pm. The funeral service will be on **Wednesday, January 20, 2021, from 8:00 am - 10:00 am**. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am followed by Interment Services at Santuario Pax Memorial Gardens, Kagman.

Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase for all your thoughts, words of comfort and prayers.

From,

Ginen I Familia Ramona E. Indalecio & Children

Science & Technology

How does WiFi work? An electrical engineer explains

By BHASKAR KRISHNAMACHARI
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Though you can't see them, radio waves are all around you all the time, carrying information. For most people, some of those radio waves are WiFi signals. WiFi is the catchy name an industry alliance came up with to market devices that transmit large amounts of data over short distances using radio waves. The letters don't stand for anything.

WiFi, like broadcast radio and cellular telephone signals, is based on scientific discoveries dating back to the late 19th century. When electrons moving through a wire are made to alternate directions periodically, something magical happens. Electrons in another wire, located at a distance, start to move up and down in sync, as though they were telepathically connected.

This phenomenon was first observed by Heinrich Hertz in 1887, confirming a mathematical theory proposed by James Clerk Maxwell in 1864. Maxwell's elegant theory explains how the alternating current in the first wire causes a "radio wave" of alternating electrical and magnetic fields to radiate out in all directions at the speed of light. The wave, in turn, causes an alternating current in the second wire.

The electromagnetic spectrum includes visible light, which alternates at a much higher frequency than radio waves. There is a mystery to ponder here: Human bodies have evolved to see light but not radio waves.

Wireless 0's and 1's

Traditional AM/FM radio and TV broadcasts communicate

information through analog, or continuous, signals. WiFi communicates information digitally, as discrete values—the 0's and 1's of binary data. This lets mobile devices easily send a wide range of data types, including video, image, speech and text. Digitally formatted data is also easier to compress for faster download, to encode for preventing errors and to encrypt for ensuring confidentiality.

When you search for something online, data from your WiFi device is first communicated over radio waves to a WiFi access point, which could be the antenna on the back of your home internet router or a WiFi antenna in a café. It then travels over wired cables to a gateway device operated by your broadband internet provider. From there, the query finds its way across multiple wired links to Google's server. The response comes back through a similar path in reverse.

WiFi devices made by different companies can talk to each other. This is because they follow a common set of rules called the 802.11 standards, published by the Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers, the IEEE. These rules specify how 0's and 1's are represented using radio waves and how devices identify themselves. They also specify an algorithm for how and when to talk, called carrier-sense multiple access, or CSMA.

CSMA makes WiFi devices both polite and smart. They always listen before they talk, to check that no other nearby devices are transmitting. To further minimize talking at the same time, they roll dice to pick random times to transmit.

And when there are more devices around, they speak less often. All of this happens too quickly to notice.

[Expertise in your inbox. Sign up for The Conversation's newsletter and get expert takes on today's news, every day.]

Fast, but not always strong

You may sometimes have trouble connecting to a WiFi access point. Here is why: Radio signals get weaker with distance. Thick walls, metal shelves and even an aquarium can weaken and obstruct radio waves. If the signal gets too weak, there is poor or no communication. If there are too many WiFi networks nearby, they may also interfere with your link.

Several improved versions of WiFi have emerged since it first appeared in the mid-1990s. Its maximum data rate—several billion bits per second—is now more than a thousand times higher than the earliest version. This is why we can have video conference calls over WiFi today.

Emerging applications like virtual reality gaming demand ever-higher download speeds. They are likely to drive even further improvements in WiFi.

This article is republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons license. Read the original article here: <https://theconversation.com/how-does-WiFi-work-an-electrical-engineer-explains-148156>. (*The Conversation*)

The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.

Identical twins aren't perfect clones, research shows

WASHINGTON (AP)—If you're an identical twin who's always resisted being called a clone of your sibling, scientists say you have a point.

Identical twins are not exactly genetically the same, new research shows.

Scientists in Iceland sequenced DNA from 387 pairs of identical twins—those derived from a single fertilized egg—as well as from their parents, children and spouses. That allowed them to find "early mutations that separate identical twins," said Kari Stefansson, a geneticist at the University of Iceland and the company deCODE genetics, and co-author of the paper published Thursday in the journal *Nature Genetics*.

A mutation means an alteration in a sequence of DNA—a tiny change that is not inherently good or bad, but can influence physical features or susceptibility to certain diseases. They can occur when a cell divides and makes a slight error in replicating DNA. On average, identical twins have 5.2 of these early genetic differences, the researchers found. But about 15% of identical twin pairs have more genetic differences, some of them up to 100, said Stefansson.

These differences represent a tiny portion of each twin's genetic code, but they could influence why one twin is taller or why one twin is at greater risk for certain cancers.

Previously, many research-

ers believed that physical differences between identical twins were related mostly to environmental factors, such as nutrition or lifestyle.

Jan Dumanski, a geneticist at Uppsala University in Sweden, who was not involved in the new paper, praised it as "a clear and important contribution" to medical research.

"The implication is that we have to be very careful when we are using twins as a model" for teasing apart the influences of nature and nurture, he said.

Previous studies, including a 2008 paper in *The American Journal of Human Genetics*, have identified some genetic differences between identical twins.

Blocking noise of Zoom calls with kids

Q I'm trying to block background noise on Zoom calls with students ages 5 to 8 who are at home or in daycare. The students have noise-canceling headphones that block the noise for them, but I have to listen to the sounds of other children, siblings, parents and barking dogs.

The students use iPads that have a plug for their headphones but no plug for a noise-canceling external microphone (headphones that include microphones are expensive.) What can I do?

A You can block background racket by using noise-canceling software instead of noise-canceling microphones.

There are two types of this software: The Zoom video call app, which has controls for canceling out background noise at the student's end of the conversation. And third-party programs for your computer that cancel out student background noise before the sound plays through your computer's speaker.

In order to use the Zoom noise-canceling feature, your students must connect to the call via the Zoom app on their iPads (as opposed to connecting without the app through the Zoom website.)

In addition, an adult must examine the app's settings to make sure they aren't set to "original sound," which means background noise is not filtered out. Toggling off "original sound" automatically turns on background noise cancellation. (For directions, see tinyurl.com/y58k8f39.) Unfortunately, the noise-cancellation feature in the iPad Zoom app has its limits. Unlike the computer app, the iPad app doesn't let you adjust to block specific types of sounds. It also doesn't allow noise cancellation to be increased or decreased.

A better solution may be to download a third-party noise-cancellation program to the PC or Mac that you use for Zoom sessions. The app most suited to your

TECH Q&A By STEVE ALEXANDER

Star Tribune (Minneapolis)



Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

needs is probably "Krisp," which can filter out student background noise before you hear it. Krisp is free to use for up to 120 minutes a week; unlimited use costs \$5 a month. (See details at tinyurl.com/y5wc25vt and downloads at tinyurl.com/y95tk8s.)

Q I copied some photos taken with a camera to my PC, and from there to my iPhone 6s. The photos are on the phone in a folder called "From My Mac," which is odd because I've never owned a Mac. Now I'd like to delete those photos, but the phone can't do it. I also tried erasing them via my PC (with and without iTunes), but it can't even "see" those photos on the phone. What can I do?

A The "From My Mac" folder stores pictures that were copied to the iPhone from any computer. This folder is part of the iPhone's Photos app, just like the "Camera Roll" folder that stores pictures taken with the phone. But, due to a quirk in the iPhone's software, the phone can easily erase the photos in the "Camera Roll," but not those in the "From My Mac" folder.

Science Matters

It just rained ... What's that smell?

A strong, earthy odor spreads soon after rain falls during dry weather – or after you turn over garden soil. Rain's odor is due to a chemical, the "blood of stones."

How rain produces smells

- 1 Rain drops trap air bubbles under them as they strike the ground or other porous surface
- 2 The bubbles spray upward as a fine, watery vapor – an aerosol – suspended in the air
- 3 Scent molecules in the ground hitch a ride on the aerosol and disperse on the wind

Scent molecules in soil

Rocks, clay and soil

contain a yellow oil, named **petrichor** ("stone blood") by its discoverers

Petrichor mostly contains two odorless fatty acids from plants:

Palmitic acid

Stearic acid

Sun and oxygen degrade them into strong-smelling chemicals:

Carboxylic acid

Ketones

Aldehydes

Earthy perfume from bacteria

Tilled or watered earth has a pungent smell familiar to any gardener

It's **geosmin** (Greek for "smell of earth"), a chemical produced by the group of bacteria *Actinomyces*

Geosmin

Source: Yung Soo Jong and Kevin Bowie of MIT; American Chemical Society; TNS Photos

Geosmin gives its odor to water – and the fish living in it – and the flesh of beets

Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Katie Couric, Mayim Bialik to be 'Jeopardy!' guest hosts

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Katie Couric, Mayim Bialik, Aaron Rodgers and journalist Bill Whitaker are among the future guest hosts who will fill in for the late Alex Trebek on "Jeopardy!"

The show announced Wednesday that Couric, the journalist and former "Today" show host, will become the first

SAG Awards moves air date to avoid conflict with Grammys

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Screen Actors Guild Awards will not share the same air date as the Grammys after all.

The SAG Awards announced Wednesday that the 27th annual ceremony has been moved to April 4.

Both awards events were scheduled to air March 14, but the SAG Awards shifted to a different date to avoid conflict with the Grammys.

The SAG Awards will air on TNT and TBS at 9 p.m. EST. The show honors outstanding film and television performances.

The Grammys had switched from Jan. 31 to March 14 due because of the recent surge in coronavirus cases and deaths. Other award shows including the Oscars and Golden Globes have pushed their ceremonies back as well.

"Throughout these challenging times, our industry and our union members have proven their creativity and resilience in discovering new methods of storytelling while adapting to new safety protocols and procedures," the SAG Awards organizers' statement said.

woman ever to host the show.

Trebek, the face of the show for 36 years, died from pancreatic cancer Nov. 8, and the final shows he recorded aired last week. The show has opted to use a series of interim guest hosts rather than immediately find permanent replacements.

Ken Jennings, considered the show's greatest champion, is currently serving as the first guest host. Once his run is done, executive producer Mike Richards will fill in for two weeks while the newly

announced guests prepare for their stints.

Rodgers, the superstar quarterback currently leading the Green Bay Packers through the NFL playoffs, is a former "Celebrity Jeopardy!" champion, and Bialik, former star of CBS' "The Big Bang Theory" and current star of Fox's "Call Me Kat," is a neuroscientist, making them fitting choices to serve up clues for contestants for the brainy quiz show.

Rodgers, the Pro Bowler and two-time NFL MVP, had

already leaked the news of his hosting earlier this week.

"I apologize to 'Jeopardy!' if they wanted to announce it, I just got so excited," Rodgers said Tuesday. "The show has been so special to me over the years."

Whitaker, a "60 Minutes" correspondent, will also be a guest host.

The show will make a donation to the guest hosts' charity of choice that matches the total dollar amount won by contestants during their run.

Rare Tintin comic book art set to sell for millions in Paris

PARIS (AP)—Not even the coronavirus can get in the way of intrepid Belgian reporter and comic book legend Tintin.

Comic book lovers and tourists alike can catch a socially distanced glimpse of a Tintin drawing by Herge in Paris before it goes under the hammer Thursday, estimated to sell between 2 and 3 million euros and possibly break the record for the most expensive comic book art in history.

The 1936 work in Chinese ink, gouache and watercolor, was destined as a cover for The Blue Lotus, the fifth volume of the Belgian journalist's adventures. But it never sat on any book store shelves because it was rejected for being too expensive to reproduce on a wide scale—a victim of its own rare craftsmanship.

"They had to do a four color process printing, with an additional color. (But the publisher) thought that the comic albums were already expensive. Reproducing this cover art would increase the production costs," said comics expert Eric Leroy



The ink on paper original of the comic character Tintin and his dog Snowy as a pirate made for an advertising and drawn by Belgian creator Herge, is displayed at the Artcurial auction house in Paris, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021.

at Art Curial auction house by the Champs-Élysées avenue.

As the name "Blue Lotus" suggests, the art work places Tintin in Asia. A huge red dragon appears on a black background by the Belgian reporter's petrified face. It is a prized addition to the universe of Tintin, the subject of recent shows in London and Barcelona, a 2011 Hollywood adaptation, a videogame and an app.

In "Blue Lotus," Tintin

travels to China during the 1931 Japanese invasion to investigate and expose—along with his dog Snowy—Japanese spy networks, drug-smuggling rings and other crimes.

But the huge interest in this work has raised a host of questions among French media regarding the work's provenance—whether it was a gift to the son of Tintin's printer or a drawing simply never returned to the artist.

Tom Hanks heads TV special celebrating Biden's inauguration

NEW YORK (AP)—Tom Hanks will host a 90-minute primetime TV special celebrating the inauguration of Joe Biden as president of the United States, with performances by Justin Timberlake, Jon Bon Jovi, Demi Lovato and Ant Clemons.

"I was left speechless when I was asked to perform!" Lovato wrote on Instagram. Clemons was also effusive: "To say that this is a dream come true, would be an understatement!"

Timberlake said he and Clemons would perform their new song "Better Days," adding: "This song was our way of doing what little we could to encourage everyone to stay hopeful."

The special will be broadcast live on ABC, CBS, CNN, NBC and MSNBC beginning at 8:30 p.m. ET on Jan. 20. It will also be streamed live on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Twitch, Amazon Prime Video, Microsoft Bing, NewsNOW, DirectTV and U-verse.

Shakira sells music publishing rights to UK company

NEW YORK (AP)—The Board of Hipgnosis Songs Fund Limited, a U.K.-based investment company, has acquired 100% of Grammy-winning superstar Shakira's music publishing rights.

Hipgnosis made the announcement Wednesday. Shakira's catalog includes 145 songs, including "Hips Don't Lie," "Whenever, Wherever," "La Tortura," "She Wolf" and "Waka Waka (This Time for Africa)."

Shakira, who released her debut album in 1991 at age 13, rose to international fame with her third album, 1995's "Pies Descalzos." The multi-talented singer-songwriter-instrumentalist took the American pop scene by storm when she made her U.S. language debut, "Laundry Service," in 2001. She's won three Gram-

my Awards, 12 Latin Grammys, four MTV Video Music Awards, seven Billboard Music Awards and 39 Billboard Latin Music Awards. Overall, Shakira has sold 80 million albums.

"Being a songwriter is an accomplishment that I consider equal to and perhaps even greater than being a singer and an artist. At 8 years old—long before I sang—I wrote to make sense of the world. Each song is a reflection of the person I was at the time that I wrote it, but once a song is out in the world, it belongs not only to me but to those who appreciate it as well," Shakira said in a statement. "I'm humbled that songwriting has given me the privilege of communicating with others, of being a part of something bigger than myself."

Couple reaches a stalemate in marriage without intimacy

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are both enlisted Army (he—20 years, two Iraq deployments; I—15 years, one Iraq deployment). We met in the service and have been married for 10 years.

Three years after our wedding, my husband told me he was no longer physically attracted to me. It hurt. A lot. It has been seven years since that day, and we're still together. I don't feel loved, appreciated or valued. I'm a logic-driven person. Emotions don't come easy for me. I have always been open about my thoughts and feelings, even the painful ones.

Since that day, I resent him, and I have told him such. He doesn't understand why I can't just "get over it" and continue to live our lives. He has refused therapy multiple times. I don't have a family of my own, and we have no children together. Must I appreciate the friendship we have, or is it time to push for a meet-in-the-middle resolution?

UNAPPRECIATED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR UNAPPRECIATED: That you would feel resentment after what your husband told you is normal. It appears that intimacy is either unimportant to him, or he is finding it elsewhere.

Your self-esteem may be below ground level, but you have a right to be able to feel loved, appreciated and

valued. Since you are receiving none of those, there is no "meeting in the middle." Where you need to meet is a lawyer's office so you can officially end a marriage that died seven years ago.

DEAR ABBY: My dad has never been great at communicating. I'm the only one who seems to communicate with him, even though I'm across the country. Over the last few years, until recently, his new wife, "Dorie," helped to bridge the gap. I loved having Dad around even if it was second hand from her.

When my aunt, his sister, died suddenly, somehow I was appointed to write the obituary. Having never written one, I inadvertently omitted Dorie's name in the article. She became enraged and defensive. I apologized, but I also showed my teeth a bit because she was so rude about an honest mistake. Now communication with Dad is as strained as it was before. I think she screens and answers his messages, so I'm unsure if it's him replying.

Dad was sick recently, and she didn't bother to tell me. I learned about it through Facebook. I'm a nice person, but she really upset me. I have already apologized and explained it was a mistake. I want a relationship with my dad. Should I apologize again?

FRUSTRATED DAUGHTER IN THE WEST

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR DAUGHTER: Yes. Apologize for reacting the way you did (showing your teeth) after the obituary "disaster." Dorie's feelings were already hurt because of your omission. If you can, smooth over what happened. However, recognize that your relationship with your father didn't make him a better communicator. You were keeping tabs on him through the efforts of his wife.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



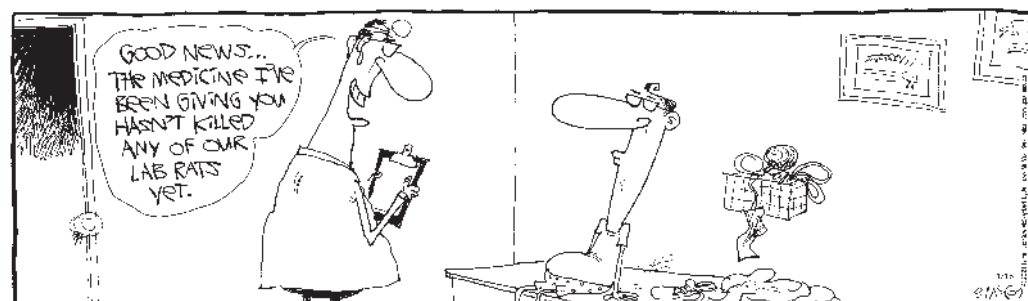
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Former quarter-back Tim
6 Scrap
9 NBC show
12 Honda's upscale brand
13 PBS funder
14 Luau bowlful
15 Napper
16 Cease broad-casting
18 Sped
20 Frozen drink brand
21 Life story
23 Corpulent
24 Ques-tioner
25 Bands on radios
27 Russian rulers
29 Least risky
31 Bounded
35 Actress Portia de —
37 Micro-wave, slangily
38 Sty chow
41 Summer in Paris

DOWN

43 Salty expanse
44 River in Tuscany
45 Show bad posture
47 Rocket launch
49 Unfettered
52 Fr. holy woman
53 Roof ornament
54 Spritlike
55 — Lingus
56 JFK's pre-decessor
57 Flat floaters

3 "Go away!"
4 Popular layered cookie
5 "The — the Believer"
6 Begin-nings
7 Tara of "Shark-nado"
8 Label
9 "Star Trek" science officer
10 Type of checking
11 Career soldier
17 Xterra maker

19 Damon and Dillon
21 Some coll. degrees
22 " — Believer"
24 Exist
26 Red wine
28 Justice Samuel
30 Fa follower
32 Set out
33 Scratch (out)
34 Narc's org.
36 Arm's-length portrait
38 Music genre of Celia Cruz
39 Jot down
40 Draw a conclusion
42 Swiss math-ematician
45 Bay Area force, briefly
46 Pop flavor
48 British ref. work
50 Command to Rover
51 USN rank

Solution time: 25 mins.

L	E	A	P	B	O	K	A	B	A	—
E	L	I	A	I	O	N	G	I	L	A
A	A	R	P	G	O	O	A	G	A	R
K	N	E	A	C	S	B	O	S	N	I
Y	A	M	A	S	I	—	—	—	—	—
A	L	D	A	I	N	T	R	I	G	J
C	A	R	L	E	A	H	M	O	—	—
E	V	E	N	K	E	E	—	E	T	A
A	A	A	—	K	E	N	—	—	—	—
I	M	M	U	N	E	—	S	T	I	N
B	A	B	S	—	R	O	B	G	O	V
E	R	I	E	—	G	H	I	M	E	A
G	A	G	A	—	C	M	G	A	L	T

Yesterday's answer 1-15

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dove Cameron, 25; Regina King, 50; Chad Lowe, 53; Mario Van Peebles, 64.

Happy Birthday: Protect what you've worked so hard to acquire. Tie up unfinished business, and consider what you want to do next. Have a plan in place, and it will be easier to avoid being distracted. Set new goals for the year. Make your objective clear to anyone who may try to jeopardize your ability to turn your plan into a reality. Your numbers are 8, 11, 23, 27, 33, 38, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll release stress and tension if you do something physical. A good workout will help you distance yourself from a situation that has left you feeling uncertain. Time is on your side. Once you've taken a break, you'll see things differently. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your enthusiastic attitude may not mix well with someone struggling to take care of responsibilities. If you take the pressure off others, you will get more in return. What you learn by taking on more will help you advance. Personal growth is apparent. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take on a position of leadership. What you do to ease stress for others will be recognized and rewarded. Update your image, and spend more time exercising to ensure you remain healthy, fit and at your best. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look for the good in everything and everyone. How you see situations and others will make it easier for you to make better decisions.

A unique partnership will take on a direction that you find enticing. Romance is in the stars. ***
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Look for opportunities that are practical and fit into your schedule and lifestyle in a suitable time frame. If someone applies pressure or makes you feel uncomfortable, back away and move on to something else. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Incorporate what you learn into your everyday life. Starting a hobby or signing up for a class will result in meeting someone who enjoys the same things you do. Romance will enhance your experience and encourage a positive lifestyle change. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take better care of yourself. Refuse to let someone push you around or put demands on you. Consider what makes you happy, and pursue people and activities that bring out the best in you. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A friend or relative will confuse you. Find out where you stand before you make a decision that can influence the dynamics of a relationship. Look for a unique way to use your living space, and it will encourage a lifestyle change. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep your thoughts to yourself. Something someone does or says will remind you of an incident you experienced a long time ago. Learn from the experience, and watch your back and protect your reputation and possessions. ****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Patience will pay off. Getting along with others will make your life easier, but don't let someone push you around. Allow others the chance to spout off, but don't lose sight of your plan and how you want to proceed. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep your eye on the ball. Don't give in to someone if it will ruin a goal you want to achieve. Look at every angle of a situation and how it will affect your relationship with friends and family, then proceed. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A physical change will fetch attention — some favorable, some not so much. Be happy that you have the freedom to do what makes you feel good. Please yourself, and your confident attitude will persuade others to accept the decisions you make. ***

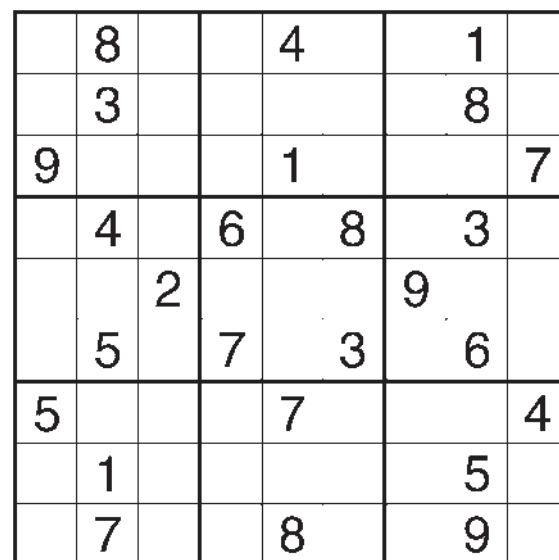
Birthday Baby: You are innovative, aggressive and unpredictable. You are flirtatious and fun.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2021 Andrews McMeel Syndication

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/15

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

6	9	7	1	8	5	2	3	4
5	1	4	7	3	2	8	9	6
8	2	3	4	9	6	1	5	7
3	8	2	6	4	1	9	7	5
4	6	1	5	7	9	3	8	2
7	5	9	8	2	3	6	4	1
9	3	5	2	1	7	4	6	8
2	4	6	3	5	8	7	1	9
1	7	8	9	6	4	5	2	3

©2012 King Features

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

FINDING GREAT DEALS

Solution: 8 letters

E S E M A G S Y A D I R F G N
L E S S E N T I F U T O N O
A H W H H U D N E P S I Z S E
S T O G A I S C I D N A E D N
G O R E N T P E O E M R E I
N L B S F I C P D A O P U B L
I C P A M E C V A I L T T I A N
V H R M R E A I O N P T O Y O
A C I T E G N D G W G O N A I
S R C S T I A A E S D L R D T
T A E I A F I I I C K S U I I
O E L R I T Y S N L U N F L D
R S S H L S Y N G S P D A O A
E E I C U O S T N A L P E H R
S R A B T I R E S L E V A R T

© 2021 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com

1/15

Aisle, Amazon, Appliances, Bargains, Beauty, Beds, Best, Browse, Busy, Christmas, Clothes, Coat, Crafts, Crowds, Deal, eBay, Fitness, Friday, Furniture, Futon, Games, Gardening, Gifts, Holiday, Online, Plants, Price, Receipt, Reduced, Research, Retail, Sale, Savings, Shipping, Spend, Stores, Thanksgiving, Tires, Tools, Toys, Tradition, Travel

Yesterday's Answer: Subway
Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Nets favored in East after Harden trade

NEW YORK—It's not often that an NBA team can add an MVP after the season starts. When things got messy between James Harden and the Houston Rockets, the Brooklyn Nets are ready to pounce.

When the Rockets were blown out by the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday night and Harden said in his postgame news conference that he didn't think Houston could be fixed, a trade was inevitable.

Harden, the MVP in 2018, was sent to the Nets on Wednesday afternoon. The Nets already were one of the league's most intriguing teams with Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving (when and if he returns to the Nets), and they just added a player who averaged 29.6 points per game over his nine Rockets seasons.

It's a fun move and the Nets are adding an undeniably talented star. But does that make them a better team from a betting standpoint? If you believe the shift in championship odds after the trade, the Nets are now one of the two best teams in the NBA.

BetMGM quickly reposted NBA championship odds after the details of the trade were settled. And they were bullish on the Nets.

The Lakers, who are coming off a title and always get plenty of championship bets, are still the favorites at +250. The Nets are now +300 to win

the title, which is incredibly low for a 6-6 team. The Nets were +600 to win the title at BetMGM when the season started, and they are the book's second-biggest liability in that market.

No other team is even close to the Lakers and Nets. The Clippers are next at +600. The Bucks follow at +700 and no other team is less than +1400.

It's not a big surprise. Big stars get a ton of attention and the Nets have a trio of superstars. They'll have to figure out chemistry and how to guard anyone, and Harden will have to prove he's locked in after a lot of negative stories leading up to the season, but BetMGM wasn't going to give away a big number on the Nets winning it all.

The Rockets weren't good this season with Harden. They were 2-6 against the spread when he played. The Rockets won and covered in the only game Harden was out.

Houston isn't nearly as good as Brooklyn, of course. But the Nets did give up Jarrett Allen, Caris LeVert and Taurean Price in the trade. As part of a four-team deal, LeVert is heading to the Indiana Pacers in exchange for star Victor Oladipo, while Allen and Prince will land with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

LeVert was scoring 18.5 points per game. Allen was averaging 11.4 points and 10.2 rebounds. Prince was chipping in 8.1 points. Brooklyn wasn't going to balk at giving up any of those players in the deal, but it's still a lot to



In this Jan. 16, 2019 file photo, Houston Rockets' James Harden (13) goes up for a shot against Brooklyn Nets defenders during the second half of an NBA game in Houston.

changed a lot for Brooklyn.

Simmons offered in swap

The Philadelphia 76ers, one of Harden's most preferred destinations, were interested enough in acquiring the disgruntled Harden that they put two-time All-Star Ben Simmons on the table, according to Shams Charania of The Athletic.

Sixers general manager Daryl Morey had previously shot down talk that Simmons was available in trade talks for Harden.

In addition to Simmons, the Sixers also offered defensive ace Matisse Thybulle and an unknown amount of draft pick compensation.

The Sixers apparently had two ways to juice their offer. One was obvious: offer more picks and pick swaps. The other was to offer this year's first-round pick, Tyrese Maxey.

However, while the Sixers were willing to offer Simmons, giving up Maxey, the 21st overall pick of the 2020 NBA draft, was a no-go for Philadelphia. In only 12 games with the Sixers, Maxey impressed as a playmaker. He is currently averaging 11.0 points and 2.7 assists on 47.6 percent shooting from the field. (AP/NBC)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	7	3	.700	0.0
Philadelphia	8	4	.667	0.0
Brooklyn	7	6	.538	1.5
New York	5	7	.417	3.0
Toronto	2	8	.200	5.0
Central				
Milwaukee	8	4	.667	0.0
Indiana	7	4	.636	0.5
Cleveland	5	7	.417	3.0
Chicago	4	7	.364	3.5
Detroit	2	9	.182	5.5
Southeast				
Orlando	6	5	.545	0.0
Charlotte	6	6	.500	0.5
Atlanta	5	5	.500	0.5
Miami	4	5	.444	1.0
Washington	3	8	.273	3.0
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Pacific				
LA Lakers	10	3	.769	0.0
LA Clippers	7	4	.636	2.0
Phoenix	7	4	.636	2.0
Golden State	6	5	.545	3.0
Sacramento	5	6	.455	4.0
Southwest				
Dallas	6	4	.600	0.0
San Antonio	6	5	.545	0.5
Memphis	5	6	.455	1.5
New Orleans	4	5	.444	1.5
Houston	3	6	.333	2.5
Northwest				
Utah	7	4	.636	0.0
Portland	6	4	.600	0.5
Oklahoma City	5	6	.455	2.0
Denver	5	6	.455	2.0
Minnesota	3	8	.273	4.0

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 games called off amid virus, 16 test positive

WASHINGTON (AP)—Contact tracing issues involving the Phoenix Suns and Washington Wizards forced the NBA to postpone three more games Wednesday, raising the leaguewide total from this week alone to eight.

The NBA also revealed Wednesday that 16 players—by far the most in a one-week period since training camps started—returned positive COVID-19 tests between Jan. 6 and Tuesday. With 497 players tested, that reflects a positivity rate of 3.2%.

Phoenix's home game Wednesday against Atlanta was called off, as was the Suns' home game with Golden State on Friday. Also called: Friday's game where the Wizards would have gone to Detroit. The reason in all three cases was the same, that the Suns and Wizards wouldn't have enough players cleared to participate.

"Obviously, it's not the typical NBA season that we're

all accustomed to," Charlotte coach James Borrego said Wednesday. "But we'll get through it."

That Suns-Hawks game was the third on Wednesday's schedule to be called, joining Utah at Washington and Orlando at Boston.

Lakers 18, Thunder 99

In Oklahoma City, LeBron James scored 26 points and the Los Angeles Lakers routed the Thunder for their franchise-record seventh straight road victory to start the season.

Montrezl Harrell added 21 points, and Anthony Davis had 18 points and seven rebounds. The defending champion Lakers have won four straight to improve to an NBA-best 10-3. They surpassed the 1985-86 squad with the 7-0 road start.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 17 points to lead Oklahoma City.

The Lakers' biggest lead was

31 points in the fourth quarter. The Thunder never led.

Mavericks 104, Hornets 93

In Charlotte, Luka Doncic had 34 points, 13 rebounds, nine assists and a career-high four blocks, Kristaps Porzingis scored 16 points in his return from a knee injury and Dallas beat the Hornets.

Tim Hardaway Jr. added 18 points to help Rick Carlisle become the 16th coach in NBA history to win 800 games. The Mavericks have won four straight after opening 2-4.

Porzingis played for the first time since having knee surgery in October. The 7-foot-3 Latvian played 21 minutes, finishing 6 of 16 from the floor and 4 of 9 from beyond the 3-point arc. He had four rebounds.

Nets 116, Knicks 109

In New York, Kevin Durant scored 26 points as the solo

superstar before soon centering a Big Three, leading Brooklyn—short-handed after agreeing to a trade for James Harden—past the Knicks.

Durant was already scheduled to play on both nights of a back-to-back for the first time since surgery to repair his Achilles tendon. He may be had to do a little more than planned after the Nets shook up their roster earlier in the day with a four-team blockbuster highlighted by the acquisition of Harden.

With point guard Kyrie Irving missing a fifth straight game for personal reasons, the Nets had only nine players.

Julius Randle scored 30 points for the Knicks. They have lost five in a row.

Bucks 110, Pistons 101

In Detroit, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 22 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for his 20th triple-double and Milwaukee beat the Pistons for

the third time this month.

The Bucks built a big early lead with a flurry of 3-pointers. Brook Lopez connected three times from beyond the arc in the first quarter, when the Bucks were 7 of 11 from long distance. Detroit was 4 of 20 overall in the period and trailed 27-13 after one.

Jrue Holiday added 21 points for the Bucks. Jerami Grant had 22 for Detroit.

Grizzlies 118, Timberwolves 107

In Minneapolis, Jonas Valanciunas had 24 points and 16 rebounds, Grayson Allen scored a season-high 20 off the bench and Memphis rallied to beat Minnesota.

Brandon Clarke added 19 points for Memphis. Malik Beasley had 28 points for Minnesota. D'Angelo Russell added 25, and Karl-Anthony Towns had 25 points and 14 rebounds.

The teams will meet again Friday night in Minnesota.

Saints' defensive line aims to disrupt Brady



NEW ORLEANS (AP)

— For all the extraordinary talent the Saints and Buccaneers have at quarterback, running back and receiver, defensive end Cameron Jordan figures that what happens in the trenches will be the decisive factor in their divisional-round playoff clash.

Recent history backs him up.

The Saints' defensive front was in Tom Brady's face constantly in both meetings during the regular season. The Saints won each by double digits, the last a 38-3 rout in Tampa Bay in Week 9.

"If you say, 'What's the most important part of any game,' I'm going to say, 'Physicality with the D-line and how we affect the quarterback,'" Jordan asserted after practice Wednesday.

Five of the 12 interceptions Brady threw in his first season with Tampa Bay came in against the Saints. One came on a ball deflected at the line of scrimmage by defensive ends Marcus Davenport and Jordan before being caught by defensive tackle David Onyemata. The Saints also sacked Brady six times this season.

Saints coach Sean Payton called the effect New Orleans' defensive line had on the previous victories over Tampa Bay "significant."

With quarterbacks such as Brady and the Saints' Drew Brees, "the clock in their heads is so important," Payton said. "Trying to disrupt that position is going to be important."



In this Sept. 13, 2020 file photo, Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady (12) looks to pass during an NFL football game against the New Orleans Saints in New Orleans.

Hughes feels as if he's back at TCU, where the Horned Frogs would open training camp prepping for the read-option offense to squeeze in extra time for what had been their annual meeting against Air Force.

"Given all the misdirection, and the quarterback having the option to pull the ball and run, it feels a little like college," Hughes said Wednesday, referring to Buffalo preparing to host Lamar Jackson and the Baltimore Ravens in an AFC divisional playoff on Saturday. "I guess playing in the Mountain West for me has its upside."

There are, of course, a few big differences he readily acknowledged by noting the Bills (14-3) have less than a week to prepare for the NFL's top-ranked running attack, and Jackson is unlike any quarterback Hughes has seen at any level.

"Just his quickness, his agility, I think he's a little bit more agile than your Kyler Murray, and probably a little bit more speedy as well," Hughes said, comparing Jackson to Murray, the Arizona starter. "Whenever you've got somebody that dynamic, you need bodies, you need population just to keep him contained. He's like a bolt of electricity. You don't want to let that out."

Jackson, the NFL's MVP last season, has been on a tear since spending a week on the reserve-COVID-19 list in late November.

The fifth-seeded Ravens (12-5) have since won six straight, the last a 20-13 wildcard playoff victory at Tennessee last weekend. It's a stretch Jackson has combined for 988 yards passing and 11 touchdowns and 566 yards rushing and five TDs.

The Bills are on a seven-game roll after winning their first playoff game in 25 years following a 27-24 victory over Indianapolis on Saturday.

Keeping an immobile Colts quarterback Philip Rivers in check might be one thing. The concern is how Buffalo's defense has struggled against the run, and particularly when facing opponents with dual-threat quarterbacks this season.

The Bills gave up a season-worst 245 yards rushing in a 26-17 loss to Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs on Oct. 19, in a game rookie Clyde Edwards-Helaire finished with 161 yards rushing.

When asked about his club's turnovers against New Orleans this season, Bucs coach Bruce Arians started by talking about his offensive line and expressed hope they'd fare better this time.

"We've got to block them better," Arians said. "I think we know what we're doing a whole lot better now than we

did then."

The defensive front has been a strength for both teams this season.

The Bucs' ranked first the NFL in stopping the run and the Saints fourth.

Tampa Bay sacked opposing QBs 48 times this season, which tied for fourth most in the NFL. The Saints had 45

sacks, which ranked eighth.

Both teams also credit pressure from their defensive fronts with causing opposing QBs to make rushed, inaccurate throws, which are prone to being intercepted.

The Saints tied for first in the NFL with 18 interceptions and the Bucs had 15.

"I do believe the defensive

line, any time they take the field, has the ability to take over a game," Jordan said. "If the outcome comes out like any of the last two games we'll be fine. But we do know that they have one of the top greatest quarterbacks ever and we have to be able to have a game plan that affects him."

In previous meetings, the Saints were able to get pressure with just four defensive linemen, allowing more players to drop into coverage.

"When we can line our four guys up against their five offensive linemen and we can get guys winning their one-on-one and sometimes guys beating two to disrupt the quarterback's rhythm and then knock him off his spot, hit him. Those things take a toll," said Saints defensive tackle Sheldon Rankins, who had a sack in New Orleans' playoff victory over Chicago last week. "We take pride in being able to do that. ... We're going to be the ones to change the game."

The Saints have a deep rotation along the defensive line, with Malcom Brown, Rankins and Onyemata the top players in the interior, while Jordan, Davenport, Trey Hendrickson and Carl Granderson have rotated effectively at defensive end.

Bills braces for run-dominant Ravens

Bills defensive end Jerry

Desperate Red Sox watch Kubler showcase



FLORIDA — The Red Sox reportedly got an up-close look

at free-agent pitcher Corey Kluber, who would be a solid pickup for a Boston team in desperate need of starting pitching.

But they were far from alone.

Nearly 25 of Major League Baseball's 30 teams were in Palm Beach Gardens on Wednesday to watch Kluber throw a bullpen session as he recovers from an arm injury, according to reports.

The 34-year-old made quite the impression during his 30-pitch session.

Kluber has suffered two major injuries—a fractured right arm and a torn right teres major muscle—over the last two years that limited him to seven starts in 2019 and one with the Texas Rangers in 2020. It's a promising sign that Kluber still has something left after winning

two Cy Young awards with the Cleveland Indians in 2014 and 2017.

But Kluber's strong showing in front of nearly 25 clubs also means more league-wide interest and more competition for the Red Sox, who were first linked to the Massachusetts resident on Dec. 1. While Kluber isn't expected to command a long-term deal, his price tag could increase if multiple teams are in the mix.

Chaim Bloom and his staff have plenty of money to spend, though, so if they liked what they saw in Florida, perhaps the three-time All-Star could be a part of their "series of moves."

Giants expresses interest on Hamel

The Giants' starting rotation has a theme right now: They probably don't do many things great with their left hand. Kevin Gausman, Johnny Cueto, Anthony DeSclafani, Logan Webb and even

the injured Tyler Beede all are right-handed.

To put it in simpler terms, the Giants probably need a left-handed starting pitcher. General manager Scott Harris agrees.

"We could use some more balance in our rotation," Harris said. "I think we're targeting some left-handed starters out there and we're hopeful that we might be able to push one across the finish line in the coming weeks, but we like what we have right now there's a lot of upside in our starting rotation and we're going to continue to try and add to it as the winter unfolds."

There still are plenty of veteran left-handers available on the open market. Former four-time All-Star and World Series MVP Cole Hamels is part of that list, and the Giants might have their eyes on the veteran lefty. Morosi reported Wednesday that Hamels, 37, intends to pitch this season and the Giants "are among

the clubs to express preliminary interest" in the 15-year veteran.

Hamels pitched in just one game last season after signing a one-year contract with the Atlanta Braves, and his one outing didn't go too well. He lasted just 3 1/3 innings and allowed three earned runs in a loss to the Baltimore Orioles.

Hamels worked his way back from a triceps injury before making his season debut on Sept. 16. He didn't make another appearance after that, and was shut down with a shoulder injury.

This isn't the first time the Giants have been connected to Hamels. They reportedly pursued him last offseason before he signed with the Braves, and San Francisco's front office has ties to the Southern California native. Harris was the Chicago Cubs assistant GM when they acquired Hamels from the Texas Rangers at the 2018 trade deadline.

Nadal, Thiem suffer setbacks ahead of Aussie Open



AUSTRALIA—World No. 2 Rafael Nadal and last year's Australian Open finalist Dominic Thiem have both suffered setbacks with their coaches unable to make the trip Down Under for the year's first tennis Grand Slam.

Players and officials have to undergo a mandatory 14-day quarantine on arrival in Australia before they participate in warmup events from Jan. 31 at Melbourne Park, where the major will be held from Feb. 8-21.

Nadal's coach Carlos Moya said he would not be travelling to Australia due to the strict health restrictions.

"After speaking with Rafa, we have decided that I won't travel to Australia with the team," Moya, a former world number one, said on social media.

"I will follow the tournament from home and will stay with my family, parents and kids due to the delicate situation that Spain is living with the virus. Best of luck to the team."

Nadal, U.S. Open champion Thiem, ranked No.3 in the world, and defending Australian Open winner Novak Djokovic will be among top players quarantining in Adelaide and then head to Melbourne for the team-based ATP Cup and the Grand Slam.

Thiem's coach Nicolas Massu of Chile was not on the flight to Australia, having tested positive for the novel coronavirus.



"Before we took off, we received the surprising message from Nicolas Massu that he had a positive test," Thiem's father Wolfgang was quoted as saying by Austria's Kurier daily.

"Nico will be tested again in a few days. We hope that he will be negative then and he will be able to follow suit soon."

With restrictions on arrival in Australia, it was unlikely that Massu, a former top 10 player, could be part of Thiem's team at Melbourne Park.

Thiem, who lost to Djokovic in the 2020 final, will train with fellow Austrian player Dennis Novak during the quarantine period when the players are allowed five hours

outside their hotel rooms to prepare for the major.

Qualifiers list complete; 15 charters set

Nearly 12,000 kilometers (7,500 miles) from Melbourne, the qualifying tournament has been completed for the Australian Open, with 16 men and 16 women set to join the singles main draw beginning Feb. 8.

That's a three-week delay from the original start date for the season-open tennis major at Melbourne Park because of quarantine protocols in place in the COVID-19 pandemic. The qualifiers join the group

of players who'll begin arriving Thursday on 15 charter flight and immediately go into a 14-day quarantine.

Due to virus restrictions in place for arriving passengers into Australia, the women's qualifying was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates and the men's qualifying was in Doha, Qatar.

The women qualifiers include two-time Australian Open and Roland Garros doubles champion Tímea Babos of Hungary and British player Francesca Jones, who has a rare genetic condition.

Jones has ectrodactyly ectodermal dysplasia, which means she was born with three fingers and a thumb on each

hand, three toes on her right foot and four toes on her left.

On the men's side, the qualifiers include 17-year-old ATP newcomer of the year, Carlos Alcaraz of Spain.

Six women and six men will also travel to Australia as lucky losers and undergo mandatory quarantine like the rest of the international players, hoping to get a place in the main draw as cover for injuries or withdrawals. There are 104 direct entries based on rankings for the men's and women's singles main draw, plus wild-card entries and the qualifiers.

The COVID-19 protocols in place for the Australian Open

AP
In this November 21, 2020 file photo, Rafael Nadal returns to Daniil Medvedev during their semifinals match in the Nitto ATP Finals at The O2 Arena, London.

include all players having to return a negative test before boarding their flight to Australia, further testing on arrival and isolation until the results are received.

The 15 flights will be at no more than 25% capacity, and will arrive over a 36-hour period ending early Saturday.

Once a negative result has been returned, players can train within a strictly supervised environment for five-hours per day, and players and their teams will be tested every day during quarantine.

The Australian Open draw will be held on Feb. 4, four days ahead of the start of the main tournament, which ends Feb. 21 with the men's singles final.

Djokovic is the defending men's champion and Sofia Kenin is the women's defending champion.

Djokovic, Nadal and Serena Williams will be among a group of players involved in an exhibition event in Adelaide, South Australia state, on Jan. 29. All other tournaments will be in Melbourne, including the 12-team ATP Cup starting Feb. 1 and two WTA events in the week leading into the Australian Open. (AP/NBC)

LIST

From Page 24

after he was tested positive for COVID-19.

Camacho survived COVID-19 and has since returned to Guam where he continues to train to prepare for any call from UFC.

"I am cranking it up again, doing cycling for my cardio and getting back into running. I am supposed to leave for California sometime this month for a training camp with Team Oyama, but have to push the trip back, probably late next month, to heal my foot injury," the 31-year-old athlete said.

Camacho said once he is back on training camp in California, he will talk with coach/trainer Colin Oyama and his manager to discuss the options available for him, including his much-anticipated duel with fellow warrior Weaver.

"If given a chance to fight this 2021, I would love to run it back with Brok just because I trained hard for that fight. I'm not too sure what he has planned, that's something we have to talk about," the light-

weight fighter said.

"Another fighter? Honestly, whoever. Actually, I just got tagged in Instagram by MMA Matchmaking and they put me on the list of possible fighters to match up with an unbeaten lightweight fighter. With that, I just have to be ready for whatever opportunities that will come my

way," Camacho said.

Leavitt holds an 8-0 card with his recent victory recorded in his UFC debut last month. The 25-year-old slammed Matt Wilman, leaving the latter unconscious for a while in the first round of their bout in the UFC on ESPN 19 in Las Vegas last Dec. 5. The Syndicate MMA standout

earned a KO win just 22 seconds into the match. It was Leavitt's first KO victory, as his seven other triumphs were off submissions (five) and decisions (two).

In picking Camacho as one of the qualified challengers of Leavitt, MMA Matchmaking mentioned that even though the Marianas pride has five

losses in UFC, he proved he can brawl and put on a show against top tier fighters like Geoff Neal, Drew Dober, Beneil Darius, and Li Jingliang.

"Camacho is legit. He is on a two-fight losing streak, but has notable wins over Nick Hein, Damien Brown, and Keita Nakamura," MMA Matchmaking said on its post.

Camacho holds a 22-9 record and 17 of his victories were via KOs/TKOs. He also got Fight of the Night honors in his first three UFC bouts.

Besides Camacho, other fighters listed as potential threats to Leavitt's perfect record are Austin Hubbard (12-5), Jaynes (16-6), and Luis Pena (8-3).



In this undated file photo, Frank "The Crank" Camacho trains with Team Oyama coach Colin Oyama in California.



Frank "The Crank" Camacho counters against Justin Jaynes during their bout in the UFC on ESPN 11 in Las Vegas last year.



Nets favored
in East after
Harden trade

PAGE 21

Saipan Tribune Sports

Saints'
defensive
line aims to
disrupt Brady

PAGE 22



24 FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

'The Crank' on challengers list



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In this 2017 file photo, Frank "The Crank" Camacho, right, hits Damien Brown during the first round of their bout in UFC Fight Night 121 in Sydney, Australia.

Frank "The Crank" Camacho has been picked as a worthy opponent for an undefeated Ultimate Fighting Championship newcomer.

In its Instagram post, MMA Matchmaking—a podcast of potential matchups between fighters—listed



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jordan "The Monkey King" Leavitt, left, celebrates after winning his fight in the Dana White's Contender Series.

Camacho among the four warriors who could challenge unbeaten Jordan "The Monkey King" Leavitt.

"It's interesting to hear that my name is still circulating around in there even though I've been inactive for nearly seven months after my last fight in Las Vegas," said Camacho.

The Team Oyama fighter's last appearance on the octagon cage was in June 2020 in UFC on ESPN 11 where he lost to newcomer Justin Jaynes (TKO early in the first round). Camacho was then scheduled to wrap up his UFC fight deal with the Sept. 12 bout against Brok "Chata Tuska" Weaver, but the former was pulled out from the UFC Fight Night 177

See LIST on Page 23

Bataliones advances to SGA Ace of Aces

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Rene Bataliones punched the last ticket to the Saipan Golfers Association Ace of Aces after topping the group's December Ace Tournament last month at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

The 8-handicapper recorded a 40 on the front and 41 on the back for a gross 81 and net 73. He had a similar net score with October Ace Alex Tudela, but won the scorecard tiebreak to make it to the club championship, which will feature SGA's 12 monthly winners in 2020.

Battling Bataliones for the SGA Ace of Aces title are Attorney General Edward Manibusan (January Ace) Jung Eun Teack (February), Nick Sablan (March), Juan "Pan" Guerrero (April), Das Krishnan (May), Larry Deleon Guerrero (June), Steve Balakrishna (July), Ed Sablan (August), John "Nanni" Cruz (September), Tudela (October), and Tony Deleon Guerrero (November).

The SGA Ace of Aces will be played for two rounds with the first set for Jan. 17 at the Kingfisher Golf Links and the second at the newly re-opened Coral Ocean Point on Jan. 24.

Meanwhile, the 10-handicapper Tudela posted a 42 in the first nine holes and 41 in the last for a gross 83, while Guerrero joined the former and Bataliones in the Top 3 of the final Ace of Aces qualifier after delivering a net 75. Guerrero holds a 15 handicap and tallied a 44 on the front nine and 46 on the back for a gross 90.

Besides making it to the Top 3 of the December Ace event, Guerrero also made a closest to the pin shot on hole No. 6. Other closest to the pin winners were Teack, Bataliones, and Nick Sablan on hole Nos. 8, 12, and 15, respectively.

Guerrero also hit one of the two longest drives in the tournament, recording the feat on the par-4, 423-yard No. 18. Rick Kautz had the same achievement, making the longest drive on the 407-yard No. 2—another par-4 hole.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Rene Bataliones will be playing in the Saipan Golfers Association Ace of Aces later this month after winning the SGA December Ace Tournament.